

JOAN WILSON

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Beginning in the FS

- Community involvement and growing interest in the FA
- No training before posting in Madrid
- Virginia Woodward, Ambassador's wife, was role model
- Primary role of Ambassador's wife: to be gracious, courteous, and respected
- Spouse of the 60's saw her role primarily as part of a marriage
- Most were committed, hard working, "enjoying the role"

Philippines

1966-1970

- Overwhelming social life as DCM spouse in Manila
- Imelda Marcos anecdote
- Philippine women reluctant to participate in nursery school coop
- Torn at having to leave children so often because of social life
- Re-entry shock for children
- Embracing washing machine
- Applied for and was selected as Dorothy Stansbury's co-coordinator at FSI
- Tribute to Dorothy Stansbury

Spouses in the FS

- Developments in spouse training
- Success with spouse language training
- Ambassador's spouses included in ambassadorial briefings
- Definition of the role of the spouse was always an issue in training:
 - how to accommodate career needs or how to adapt career interests
 - how to build up a job resume overseas (with frequent FS moves)
 - how to create an environment overseas which meets spouse expectations
- Attributes change in FS to civil rights movement, feminist movement
- Liberation activated suppressed talents
- Some structure still necessary: senior wives had been overburdened, isolated, and abused
- Solutions found for bachelor officers
- Dragon lady myths were more prevalent than the dragon ladies themselves
- Canadian information center was inspiration for OBC info center
- OBC material more reliable than post reports, latter subject to congressional and host country review
- FSI resistance to cultural training for spouses
- Training experience at FSI
- 1972 Directive
- Fortunate in life
- Nickname at FSI was Sparkle Plenty