

JUNE BYRNE SPENCER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

World War II, Foreign Service Auxiliary

1943 joins FS Auxiliary, assigned to Embassy in Madrid
Crosses Atlantic on Pan Am Clipper
Effects of Spanish Civil War, poor food, illness
V-E Day, culture shocks abroad
Returns home on Liberty ship
1946 Mandatory resignation on marriage
Works for Fen. Nelson on reorganization, Dept. of State
Appointed Acting Registrar, FS School
Foreign Service expands with postwar growth
Experiences elitism, anti-Semitism, injustices in FS
1946 marries Jimmy Byrne, FSO, assigned Berne, Switzerland
Attitudes on assignment process, junior wives, spouse role

Assignments to Ethiopia and Tunisia

1953-1955; 1957-1959

Lack of training and guidance in Washington and at post
FSO marriages to foreign women
Starts women's group at post
Faces re-entry problems on return to Washington
Inexperienced political ambassador raised chickens in Residence compounds
FS women in Washington developing plans to expand activities
Feels need for formal organization of FS women

Creating a New Organization

1959-1960's

Men see no need for the women to organize
Hostile atmosphere among Senior wives & State Dept.
Strategy of contact, excitement as process accelerates
Secretary of State and Mrs. Dean Rusk very supportive
Attitudes turn as Wriston program and society bring changes
1960 AAFSW established, balloting, new agenda
Fund-raising for charities by the new organization
Language studies and other training a major interest of AAFSW

Changes in the Old Order Among FS Women

November 1962 introduces first FSI course for FS women
State Dept. recognizing importance of women's role
No guides to replace old rules as standards relax
"Social cards and calls vanishing" states Washington Post