

A Tribute to Bertha Shanblum, Administrative Assistant Par Excellence

On the occasion of the retirement of Bertha Shanblum, I, as Editor of the *American Journal of Community Psychology*, wish to pay tribute to her contributions to the field of community psychology. As the always dependable Administrative Assistant to the inimitable Doctor Ira Iscoe, the field's most frenetic, rebellious, and yet unlikely Texan, her contributions were consistently faithful, considerate, and discerning. Incredible fusions, they were, of personal regard and realistic action.

Mrs. Shanblum has endured repeated and sustained interaction with most of the Division 27 Presidents and Secretaries. When the Division was formed in 1965, Iscoe was the *Newsletter* Editor and Mrs. Shanblum did all the work. When Iscoe became Secretary-Treasurer, she handled Division finances, making sure that there were ample contributions of donated labor as well as legitimate charges of expenses to funds other than Division 27's. After having put the Division in the black, she had to cope with Iscoe's becoming President and with all the administrative complications that community psychologists generate. She knows everything about the Division and how to get most anything done.

She was instrumental in writing the first proposal (1965) to NIMH asking for and receiving funding for a free-standing community psychology program. She has been an unofficial historian for the field, the keeper of archives. She has sagely preserved several copies of the report of the Swampscott Conference; virtually every issue of the Division *Newsletter*, and she can recite the names of every president of the division in chronological order. In 1975, she spent six months as Chief of Staff in preparing for and conducting the Austin Conference. The many contributors to the volume, *Community Psychology in Transition*, remember her kind but diligent pursuit of deadlines.

Meanwhile, back in Texas, she is still the person to whom community psychology students go for assistance and advice. As students have faced their dissertation examinations, Bertha, always with the students, has wor-

ried about and celebrated the outcomes. She now proudly identifies with her former students as they have attained distinguished posts throughout the world.

Community psychologists everywhere welcome the opportunity to acknowledge her myriad contributions and express their appreciation for her services to the field. I convey from them our very best wishes for every happiness on her retirement in January of 1986.

John C. Glidewell
Editor