

## TSCA SPEAKER-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD-1978

## Wilma Dykeman Stokely

Wilma Dykeman Stokely is one of Tennessee's most distinguished contemporary authors, lecturers and citizens. Although terming herself a "full-time homemaker," she has found time to write extensively in the fields of fiction, history, and social commentary. Her book, The French Broad, won the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Trophy in 1955 and she received in collaboration with her husband, James Stokely, the Hillman Award for a widely acclaimed work on race relations, Neither Black Nor White, in 1958. Her novel, The Tall Woman, was accorded a special award by the Chicago Friends of America Writers organization. Other works of Wilma Dykeman's include, Seeds of Southern Change; The Far Family; Prophet of Plenty; Look to This Day; Return the Innocent Earth; Too Many People, Too Little Love; and The Border States. She is the author of numerous articles and short stories which have appeared in the New York Times Magazine; Harper's; the Readers Digest and others. In addition, she has written a regular column for the Knoxville News Sentinel.

Mrs. Stokely has also devoted many hours to lecturing before universities and colleges as well as religious, social and civic organizations. Her most frequent subjects center around civil rights, race relations and the need for environmental protection.

Of special interest to the speech community is the fact that her first degree was awarded by the School of Speech at Northwestern University. She has since been awarded a

a doctorate in humane letters by Maryville College and received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1956.

Mrs. Stokely says that she has spent "a lifetime listening to old-timers, absorbing their speech, observing thier ways, and daily appreciating the natural magnificence which surrounds human existence in these rugged mountains." A life-long associate says, "To read Wilma Dykeman's writings is to know the mountain people; to hear her lecture is to know Wilma Dykeman."

--Richard Dean

405 Clifton Heights  
Newport, Tennessee 37821

October 26, 1978

Professor Jim Brooks  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Murfeesboro, Tennessee 37132

Dear Professor Brooks:

When I returned from the British Isles imagine how surprised and delighted I was to discover that I had been the choice of the Tennessee Speech and Communication Association award for this year.

It was a great disappointment that I had not been able to attend your annual meeting, become acquainted with your members, and receive the award in person.

Today the beautiful tray arrived, appropriately inscribed. It will occupy a position of honor on my shelves and serve as a reminder of the confidence fellow Tennesseans have shown in my efforts to communicate with a variety of audiences in our region and elsewhere.

Please accept my thanks for this honor and confidence, and assure fellow members of your distinguished Association that I appreciate their Award.

With warmest wishes for the continued success of your work and your Association,

Sincerely,

Wilma Dykeman Stokely