

Camp 36/0002/9

40

I am MINNIE A. MITCHELL and I was born in Woodstock, Cape Province, South Africa. I lost my father at a very young age and to me he was only a picture on the wall. My mother was a hard working woman with very scant formal education. She had to support us (two children) by working as a domestic servant for white families. She however had a dream to give her children the best education she could afford so that we would not have to endure the same humiliation she did. I became a Primary School Teacher through much sacrifice on the part of the whole family. Mother always used to say education is something they cannot rob you of.

We belonged to the African Methodist Episcopal Church and I was glad that the church motto was God our Father, Christ our Redeemer and Man our Brother. I fully and truly adopted this motto. As a member of my church I became active in the Young People's Department and held office as District President also Secretary for many years. I was also active in the Women's Missionary Society and as a delegate took me to places all over South Africa, Namibia and once to Florida, USA. As a young teacher I became a member of the Teacher's League of South Africa up to the time it was banned. I was very active in the local chapter. Learned to know people such as Edgar Maurice, Easter Gordon, Benny Kies.

I was involved with organized sport through Primary School, College and in the private sector. Held office as treasurer and secretary and President of the Coloured Women's Hockey League in the Cape Province and one term of President in the Coloured South African Women's Hockey Board.

Though all these years I have been a strong supporter in the opposition of Apartheid and though I have not been a member of any political body as such, I have demonstrated in financial support without question. My way of fighting apartheid was influencing my school children that they were second to none. This was also transferred to my own children. I felt that if each person played their significant part in our struggle against apartheid we would eventually overcome. I was proud of my church which taught me that Brotherhood was a beautiful word and better still, the will to live this in our daily lives.

The apartheid laws affected me as it did others too. The Group Areas Act forced me to sell my home shortly after my husband's death. My only son was issued an exit permit when he wanted to study abroad. The Coloured Affairs Department was a thorn in my flesh. I saw many of my friends turning traitors towards their own people and thus I, through principle had to ignore those people. When I was forced to leave my home, I decided it was time for me to leave South Africa. I chose Canada as my new home. I am happy to state that here I renewed friendships with people such as Hazel and Dennis September and that my son married their daughter. This again brought me much closer to the Freedom movement. I collected funds in the office where I worked and also influenced the workers and friends to boycott South African goods, distributed information on the South African situation. I have also pledged regular financial contributions to the movement. It is now my wish to be counted as a member of the African National Congress (South Africa) and hereby apply for your approval.

Minnie A. Mitchell
Minnie A. Mitchell

MINNIE ANNIE MITCHELL
1105 2nd. Street North
BRANDON MANITOBA
R7A 6H5 CANADA

EMPLOYMENT:

July 1972 -
January 1986
Employed with the Manitoba Government as an Income Security Counsellor as an Intake Worker in the Brandon Office. Retired January 2, 1986.

August 1970 -
July 1971
Brandon General Hospital, Brandon, Manitoba
NURSE AIDE: Duties entailed washing patients, changing beds, tidying wards, cleaning equipment, serving meals, communicating with patients, cleaning medication room and assisting nurses.
Left to take Social Welfare Service course at the Assiniboine Community College, Brandon.

October 1968 -
March 1970
Cape Town, South Africa.
TEACHER: Taught all subjects on curriculum except music in Grade 3. Extra mural activities after school hours which included sport meetings; Parent/Teacher Association meetings and fund raising efforts.
Left to migrate to Canada.

September 1967 -
December 1967
Southampton Educational Department, Southampton, England.
TEACHER: Taught Second Year Infants who were slow learners. Some with speech difficulty and psychological problems.

July 1964 -
June 1967
Coloured Affairs Department, Cape Town, South Africa.
TEACHER: Taught all subjects on curriculum to Grade 2 except music. Needlework to Grade 7, plus extra mural activities.

March 1963 -
June 1964
Fredman Motors Pty. Ltd. Cape Town, South Africa.
ACCOUNTING MACHINE OPERATOR: Duties included compiling and mailing of monthly accounts, filing, sales analysis, operating small switchboard for short periods.

July 1959 -
May 1962
Ten-Up Retreaders Pty. Ltd. Cape Town, South Africa.
ACCOUNTING MACHINE OPERATOR: Duties identical to those of above job - Fredman Motors.

January 1939 -
February 1959
Cape Educational Department, Cape Town, South Africa.
TEACHER: In a permanent capacity from January 1939 to March 1943. After marriage in 1942 as a substitute teacher. The policy of the Educational Department was not to employ married women permanently.

RELATED EXPERIENCES:

Active member of the Teacher's League of South Africa. Active in the Parent/Teacher Association. Leader in the Young People's Department of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. District Secretary of the Women's Missionary Society. Elected delegate to the General Conference in Miami, Florida in 1956. Organized sewing club at the church and Xmas hampers for the aged of the church. Chairperson of Wynberg Swifts Women's Hockey Club. Served the Western Province Hockey Union as President and Secretary at various times. President of South African Women's Board. Organized South African Hockey Tournament in 1954. Treasurer of Princeton Tennis Club.

EDUCATION:

1971 - 1972 Course in Social Welfare Services - Assiniboine Community College, Brandon, Manitoba. Graduated with a diploma in Social Services. Field Training was with the Society for Cripple Children and Adults.

1969 Completed 3 subjects for Grade 12 - Technical College, Cape Town, South Africa.

1957 Junior Typing Course - Technical College, Cape Town, South Africa.

1937 - 1938 Two year Teacher Training- Wesley Training College, Cape Town, South Africa.

1935 - 1936 Junior Certificate - Wesley Secondary School, Cape Town, South Africa.

OTHER EDUCATION:

Emergency Measures Course - Ottawa, Ontario. The course entailed setting up, planning and delivery of Emergency Relief during catastrophic events (e.g.: war time, floods, drought, etc.).

HOBBIES:

Travelling, Gardening, Sewing, Knitting, Golfing, Reading, Walking.

REFERENCES:

Mrs. M. Catley - Supervisor 400 W, Brandon General Hospital, Brandon, Manitoba.

Mr. A. Bauman - Department Head and Instructor in Social Services Department, Assiniboine Community College, Victoria Avenue, Brandon, Manitoba.