



Ten Inspiring Achievements of Pearl S. Buck

- 1** *The Good Earth*, Pearl S. Buck's second novel, remained on the best-seller list for more than 21 months. It won the Pulitzer Prize for best novel by an American author in 1932 and has been printed in more than 30 languages, including Chinese.
- 2** Ms. Buck was the most influential Westerner to write about China since 13th century Marco Polo. Never before had a writer shaped the imaginative terms in which America addressed a foreign culture. Ms. Buck is credited with introducing China to two generations of Americans.
- 3** Ms. Buck is one of two American women to be awarded both the Pulitzer and Nobel Prizes for literature, and she held the distinction for 55 years until 1993, when Toni Morrison joined her by receiving both honors. Ms. Buck went on to become a prolific writer, publishing over 1000 works including books, short stories, non-fiction articles, essays, plays and speeches.
- 4** Ms. Buck and her second husband, Richard Walsh, also her publisher at the John Day Company, were one of the first couples to adopt, raise and foster multiracial children. They were married for 25 years and raised many children, seven of whom were legally adopted, two which were biracial. Many children were also fostered in their care.
- 5** In her first marriage of seventeen years, to John Lossing Buck, she gave birth to Carol, who suffered from phenylketonuria, resulting in severe developmental disabilities and eventual institutionalization. Ms. Buck's desire to help publicize the cause of the disabled began by publishing *The Child Who Never Grew*, a story of her personal experience. A school for the developmentally disabled was established in Eugene, Oregon, in honor of the Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winning author Pearl S. Buck, with her permission and endorsement. Ms. Buck also wrote a book titled, *A Community Success Story: The Founding of the Pearl Buck Center*, with Elizabeth Waschter in Eugene, Oregon. The Pearl S. Buck Center in Oregon continues to this day serving people with disabilities.
- 6** Ms. Buck was a driving force in humanitarian causes and equality, spending most of her adult life in the American civil rights movement. She wrote for *Crisis*, the magazine of the NAACP, and *Opportunity* published by the National Urban League. Ms. Buck served on the Urban League board of directors and was an active trustee of Howard University, an historically Black private university. She received an honorary degree from Howard University in 1942 and responded with an important speech on the complex issues of race. She was a longtime advocate of cross-cultural understanding, women's rights, and racial harmony, receiving over 1,000 awards in her lifetime.
- 7** In 1949, Ms. Buck established Welcome House®, the first adoption agency in the United States to find families for the biracial children who were considered unadoptable and institutionalized. She is credited for breaking racial barriers to adoption.
- 8** After the Korean Conflict, Welcome House expanded its charter and went to Korea to help abandoned children. It became one of the first international adoption agencies in the world.
- 9** In 1964, Ms. Buck established the Pearl S. Buck Foundation (now Pearl S. Buck International®) to publicize and eliminate injustices and prejudices suffered by children, who because of their birth, are not permitted to enjoy the educational, social, economic and civic privileges normally accorded to children.
- 10** Ms. Buck's vision for helping children, building a bridge between East and West, and an appreciation of the values and attributes of other cultures continues today through Pearl S. Buck International.

