

## TSO Headquarters History, TWU, Denton, Memories and Reflections



**Backstory...** TSO Secretary/Treasurer's offices through the years—  
1929-1982: Austin, Fort Worth, or Snyder home of the state officer.  
1982-2005: TWU, Denton.  
2005-present: Dallas.

### Ruth Hull

1988-1998 TSO Executive Secretary/Treasurer  
Offices at Texas Woman's University, Denton  
*Written August 28, 2017*

### Two-room Apartment

In 1982 as membership grew, TSO began renting a two-room apartment in a Texas Woman's University residence hall, Guinn Hall, to serve as state headquarters. Here, employees worked in a more permanent office than a member's home could provide.

The two-room apartment had a bathroom and a makeup counter just outside the bathroom. There were three good-sized closets in the apartment, and we had two big closets in the hall outside the apartment. There was a kitchen cabinet. We did not cook, but we had a refrigerator, sink, and microwave (the microwave was mine). So you see, it was more than one room.

The university people were very nice, and a maid cleaned the office for us. She was very nice to us; of course, we were nice to her.

A married couple lived in another apartment, and we became friends. He helped us with heavy things.

I had a small apartment in Denton and was there three nights a week. I still kept up with some of my activities at home. My husband was very supportive of me, and he called me every night.



Ruth: "My office. I loved it."

### Write You a Book

I could write you a book on my time there.

There were two of us in the office. I worked three days a week, and my secretary (Valdeva Bulls) worked five half days or two and a half days. The two of us kept caught

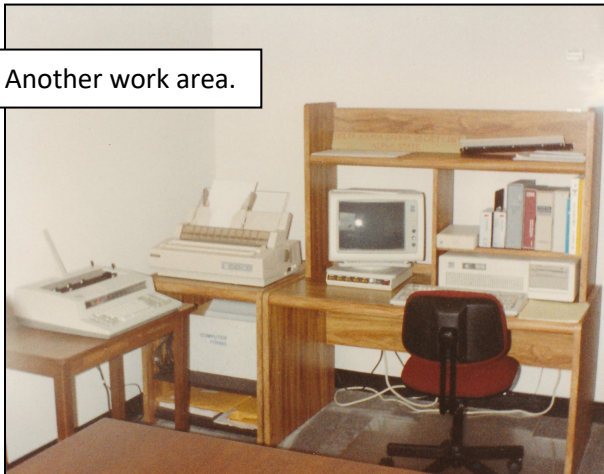
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Ruth: "Valdeva's desk. Her desk was always neater than mine."



up with all the business when TSO had 19,000+ members. I worked for the state organization ten years, and I really enjoyed those ten years. I was hoping that we would eventually have 20,000 members, but we never did.

Another work area.



Technology had not taken over everything. I am a numbers person as I was a math teacher for 36 years, so I kept all business in a ledger. At the end of each month when I closed out the month, I put everything in the computer. If the computer and my work came out the same, then it was correct. It was all fun to me. Having a computer was very new. The previous lady hired a lady to put info in the computer for her. I did at first; then, I decided that I could do it.

Ruth:  
"Painting of  
Eula Lee  
Carter. Four  
altar candles  
honored  
Jessie Sim  
when she  
was  
international  
president."



Not long after I had been at the job, we stopped getting mail. It was a puzzle to the two of us, so I went to the post office (the university post office) and asked the man



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there about it.

His reply was, "If you would pay your box rent, you would get mail."

I answered him by saying that I did not know it was due.

He said, "They all say that."

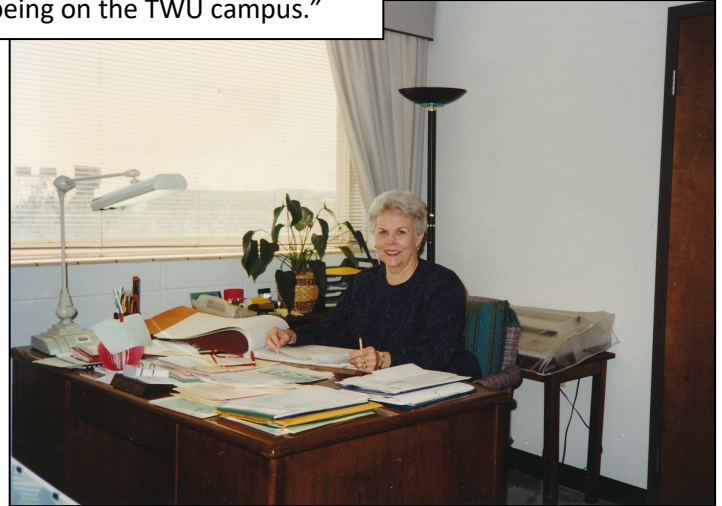
I almost hit the ceiling. Then, I said, "If you would let me know, I would pay it."

Then, he said that there was a note in my box.

I told him that I was not a student but a professional and that if there had been a notice, I would have paid it.

After that he and I became good business friends, and I had no other problems with the post office.

Ruth: "In my office posting in journal. I spent ten wonderful years at this job and loved being on the TWU campus."

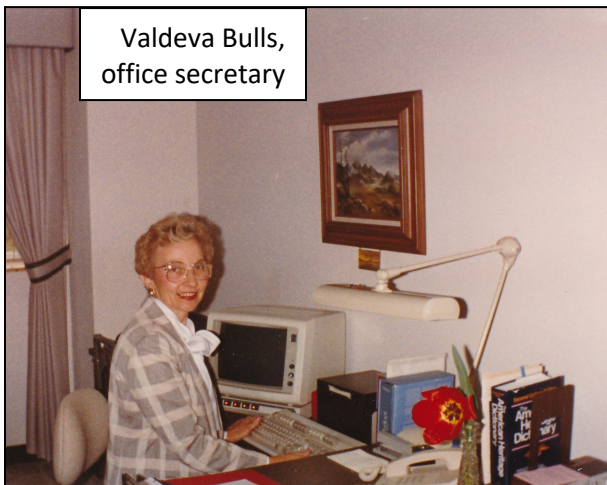


### **Many Fun Things**

There were so many fun things that others might not care about.

For instance, when Ruth Johnson was state president in 1991-1993 (if you remember her, she was a large lady), she came by the office one day when she was returning from visiting a chapter west of Denton. I think she came by to tell us that when she spent the night with her hostess, the bed fell with her. We had a good laugh. We did not talk business, so we decided she just stopped by to tell us the bed fell.

Also, when Dr. Dolores Akins was state president in 1993-1995, one time she came over with work and questions. When she finished what she wanted to know, she gathered up her stuff and was leaving. I had to say, "Just a minute. I have work for you." So, she stopped and answered what I needed.



Valdeva Bulls,  
office secretary

### **Mail-outs and a Computer Program**

We had a stamp machine as we had lots of mail-outs. Email was just starting. We would make labels for the envelopes. Valdeva would type the letters and copy them. Then, we would fold them, put them in the envelopes, seal, stamp, and mail.



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It did not take long, but it was longer than email. We both used typewriters.

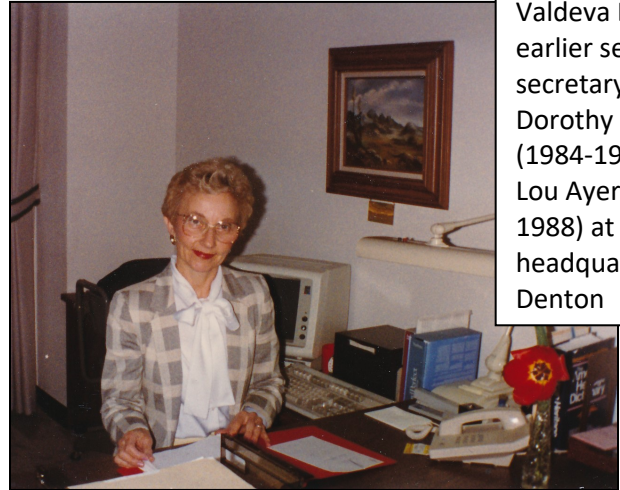
The program I used for the computer was a program for non-profit organizations. I went to Austin to the company that sold the program and learned to use it.

### The Brass

I hated dealing with the brass. Sometime before me the brass had had a finish put on it, and it did not need to be cleaned. I just had to load it to take to a convention, and there were no rollers on the cases.

After I left, someone thought it needed cleaning, and that cleaning ruined the finish, and I understand that it now has to be cleaned.

If a convention was far from Denton, we did not take the brass. I did take it to Waco and Houston, but I never worried about anyone stealing it. I have heard that now they almost have a guard for it. I felt if anyone wanted it bad enough to steal it, let them have it! My attitude was bad, wasn't it?



Valdeva Bulls had earlier served as secretary for Dorothy Hefner (1984-1986) and Lou Ayers (1986-1988) at state headquarters in Denton



Ruth: "These photos show how much we took to the Fort Worth convention. The photos give members an idea of what we take and how that stuff gets there! Yes, we took that much! My dear, now departed husband had everything loaded before taking it all to the basement."



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**Above photos—**  
Ruth: “In the basement of our TWU building. Loading convention stuff. Still loading.”

**Photo to the right—**  
Ruth: “Just my brief case to fill and take.”



Ruth: “This photo was taken at the 1995 state convention in Houston.”  
Left to right—  
**Phyllis Ellis**, 1950-1978 TSO executive secretary, in Fort Worth,  
**Virginia Grove**, 1977-1978 TSO treasurer, in Fort Worth, and 1978-1982 TSO executive secretary/treasurer, in Snyder, the first to hold the combined secretary/treasurer position. TSO rented an apartment next to her home for her office and hired a lady as her helper/secretary.  
*Next, TSO executive secretary/treasurer in Denton at TWU in Guinn Hall:*  
**Evelyn Laney**, 1982-1984,  
**Dorothy Hefner**, 1984-1986,  
**Lou Ayers**, 1986-1988,  
**Ruth Hull**, 1988-1998.



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### **Jessie**

At the office one morning around 9 o'clock, I received a phone call from a friend of Jessie Sim, 1967-1969 state president. Jessie had been sick, and evidently this lady knew about the office, or Jessie had told her. The lady told me that Jessie was about to have surgery that morning. I was shocked but told the lady that I would be at the hospital.

I immediately called Dr. Aleene Van de Griff, 1989-1991 state president, to tell her about Jessie as she and Jessie were very good friends. She said she would come, and I told her that I would be at the hospital. So, I spent that day with Aleene at the hospital.

Jessie was so small and frail.

### **The Job**

Jessie and Dorothy Stallings, 1987-1989 state president, were the two main ones who wanted me to apply for the job--and I did. Laginia Hale, 1977-1979 state president, was also a part of that hiring.

I have many wonderful memories that no one else would enjoy. Valdeva and I had lots of fun doing the work. I loved being the state treasurer, and if I weren't so old, I would still enjoy doing it. I was my chapter treasurer for a total of 35 years and gave it up last year because someone needed to do it while I was still able to help her if she needed help. She does it all on the computer, and I always used a penciled-in ledger.

Had I lived in Denton, I would have stayed longer than ten years, but our home was in Tyler, and we did not want to make a permanent move.



Ruth: "Dorothy Stallings was president at the time of this photo of her at my desk. Look at the view from my window! It was great!"



**Ruth Hull**  
1988-1998 TSO Executive  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Valdeva Bulls**  
Office Secretary

Ruth: "I loved the office at TWU. It was just right. Valdeva started working when Dorothy Hefner was in the office and retired in 1998 when I did."

*Text and photos courtesy of Ruth Hull.  
Document compiled by Marilyn Nease, TSO  
Headquarters Committee chair, 2017-2019.*