

2-1960

Comment and Idea Exchange

Mary F. Hall

Follow this and additional works at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/wcpa>



Part of the [Accounting Commons](#), and the [Women's Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hall, Mary F. (1960) "Comment and Idea Exchange," *Woman C.P.A.*: Vol. 22 : Iss. 2 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/wcpa/vol22/iss2/7>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Archival Digital Accounting Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Woman C.P.A. by an authorized editor of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

Comment and Idea Exchange

MARY F. HALL, C.P.A.

THAT PAINFUL SUBJECT

Ida Broo's interesting and informative article in the October 1959 issue of *The Woman CPA* entitled "Deep in the Hurt of Taxes" is an excellent review of the heritage from which our current tax laws have sprung.

As the critical tax deadlines again approach, perhaps the sentiments which will draw the most sympathetic re-reading are the opening sentences of her third paragraph:

"In those days it was difficult to draw the line between taxation and plunder. The theory prevailed throughout the ancient world that taxation was an injustice, or at best a misfortune, to be avoided whenever possible."

Tax law may change, but the voice of the taxpayer continues unchanged.

NO OPPORTUNITIES?

How would you answer this subscriber?

"I constantly see . . . 'women attain top executive positions in business' . . . 'opportunities for women who are trained in the field of accountancy.' But where are the opportunities?"

"For example, the New York Times . . . help wanted section . . . is almost devoid of positions for female accountants. With employment agencies . . . they smile and file away your application. The federal and state governments do not have girls in responsible positions. The New York City government does—I was offered a position (after passing an examination) at a fair salary, but to do . . . vouching!"

"I have . . . three years certified public accounting and three years private accounting experience. I am also studying . . . to pass the CPA examination. But I have reached an impasse! No interesting and responsible positions available—anyway, not for women.

"How can the profession attract and hold more of us—if employment opportunities are so slim?"

The foregoing excerpts from a subscriber's letter appear to summarize the opinions of some of our readers. This viewpoint will bear a careful review, however, if we look at the record.

The December, 1959, issue of *The Journal of Accountancy* indicated that Miss Dorothy G. Willard was elected Treasurer of the Association of CPA Examiners—Miss Willard is a respected tax practitioner and a partner in one of the largest local accounting firms in Boston, Massachusetts.

The October, 1959, issue of *The CPA* announced the appointment of Miss Linda Stanford as Vice President, Finance, of Endicott Johnson Corporation, Endicott, New York. Miss Stanford, an employee of the company since 1917, heads a division responsible for the functions of the controller and the treasurer.

Miss Willard and Miss Stanford are excellent examples of women who have advanced to interesting and responsible positions in accounting. Among the women listed on page 2 of this magazine, officers of the two societies, may be found other particularly fine examples of women's progress in the field. The membership lists of ASWA and AWSCPA also bear abundant witness to this progress.

True, the opportunities are not necessarily begging women to accept them. True, the want ads and the employment agencies do not stress the higher level executive positions in business for women. But, it is also true that business does recognize demonstrated ability. It is good business to do so. It is good business to place more responsibilities on the shoulders of the employee who has demonstrated the capacity for it.

The key to the door where opportunity knocks for women (or men) in this accounting business is the demonstrated ability to get the job done. As to getting a chance to demonstrate—we must walk before we run. Accept the lesser position, but do such an excellent job that progress is inevitable.