Some of us heard about Jane (and her husband, Dick) and Lotta Gutsa at Canada's first women's studies conference, held at York University, or read about them soon after in *CWS/cf.* If you do not know the piece, search it out in Clara Thomas's collection of essays, *All My Sisters*, published by Tecumseh Press in 1994. It remains, alas, a useful guide to transmuting a thesis into tenurable publications. It is also, at least for those who have survived the process, very funny.

Lotta Gutsa represents major elements of Clara Thomas's life and character: her commitment to scholarship and to the young, and her deep but unaggressive feminism. She states in the article's last footnote that "the informational content of this story is authentic to my experience and observation." So too is her memoir, which can be recommended to anyone interested in what it was like growing up in small-town Ontario just after the First World War. The book also includes a rare first-person account of the university system in Canada before and after the second world war, including the early years of York University.

In addition, *Chapters in a Lucky Life* recounts the life of a young Canadian woman in the 1940s and 1950s, another topic not much recorded. Admittedly, this was not quite a typical young woman of those days, but a particular and remarkable one, very bright, very pretty, who wanted to dance and sing, to go to movies, to travel, to marry well and nurture a family—and also to become a scholar. All of which she did. Clara Thomas writes, "Truth to tell, I had become a scholar in my last two years at Western, and, always obsessive, wanted only two things—to marry Morley [Thomas] and to go to Graduate School at some as yet unknown time in the future." In due course, these ambitions were achieved; see her account of how, in 1944, she produced her Master's thesis and, not long afterwards, her first son. She then moved on, gently but irresistibly, to a doctorate on Anna Jameson and a position as one of the first two women hired at the newly founded York University.

In the process she survived, with aplomb though also with some resentment, the difficulties encountered by women who pursued learning. We can understand, even while regretting, the discretion of the book's intermittent accounts of what its author calls "the politics of academic feminism." All the same, the reality of sexism leaks through from time to time. For example, an old academic friend was furious when, armed with that MA, young Mrs Thomas had the impertinence to apply for a doctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto. You want to compete with your husband, he told her, and— it was 1949— she dutifully withdrew the application. In "the conservative fifties," she recalls, she was "an easy prey for guilt" and accepted that she could not attend Northrop Frye's famous lectures because she would have had to arrange babysitting for her two small children.

However, over all, this book recalls what its author considers a lucky life. Perhaps we should say, instead, that it was a fortunate one. Fortune, after all, is something we help to make. Surely there *is* something, more than just luck, about Clara Thomas, who managed to publish her MA thesis, to acquire the legendary A.S.W. Woodhouse for a sponsor, and to have Northrop Frye as a dissertation supervisor. And who continues to awe and charm us in this book as elsewhere.

PAULINE JEWETT: A PASSION FOR CANADA

Judith McKenzie. McGill-Queen's University Press, 1999.

BY CLARA THOMAS

In 1992, just three months before she died of cancer, Pauline Jewett received a Companionship in the Order of Canada. It was the final honour in a life that had been marked by many achievements, all of which signaled advances for Canadian women. When she was made president of Simon Fraser University in 1974, the first woman to be president of a Canadian university, those of us who were academics and, like myself, close to her age, were probably the loudest cheer leaders, for we knew only too well the difficulties she had faced and overcome. Judith McKenzie gives an even-handed account of those difficulties and, though I could wish for more detail in her account of Pauline's early schooling, I fully appreciate the skill and expertise with which she has handled the details of a many-faceted career.

From a close family environment and approving encouragement, especially from her father, she went on a scholarship from St. Catharine's Collegiate to Queen's and there entered the Political Science and Economics Department. McKenzie is excellent here in her account of the influence of Jean Royce, the Queen's registrar, whose encouragement had already affected many women's careers. Obviously Royce spotted unusual talent in Jewett and lost no time in nurturing it. She was one of three important mentors in the Queen's years, along with Dr. Alice Vibert Douglas, Dean of Women as well as a distinguished professor in the Department of Physics, and Professor J.A. Corry of the Political Science Department. Dr. Douglas provided encouragement with a valuable cautionary component as well, for the boring housekeeping responsibilities that were a part of the Dean of Women's job were not lost on Jewett. J.A. Corry's backing was invaluable in her post-graduate acceptance, with scholarship, to Harvard, but later he let her down badly, when he did not back her tenure-stream appointment to the Queen's Faculty, though she had taught there with success and was

obviously an ABD of great promise. Corry's "betrayal" of her in favour of John Meisel plagued her always. However, the disappointment galvanized her into finishing her Harvard thesis on Canada's Wartime Prices and Trade Board, and after that, into some months of post-doctoral research at the London School of Economics.

In 1955, after directing a study of the organization of the Canadian Nurse's Association and in the process making a firm and important friend of the project's co-ordinator, Muriel Uprichard, Pauline was hired by Carleton College. In the last three years she had applied to eighteen Canadian universities without an answering letter from any of them. Carleton, however, was new, experimental, the invention of a small group of idealistic academics, and perfect as a home base for her. It had grown apace with the influx of post-war veterans, and by mid-fifties it had also attracted a group of especially gifted faculty, among them John Porter whose *The Vertical Mosaic* was to become internationally known. She found her colleagues so congenial that, with a number of them, she bought land on Constant Lake, northwest of Ottawa. Her cottage there became her emotional home for the rest of her life.

In spite of becoming a successful academic, popular with her classes and by 1960 elected chair of the Department of Political Science and Economics, she became increasingly restless, intrigued by the pull of politics, and often attending Parliamentary debates on her free days. It is at this point in Jewett's career that McKenzie does her very best work: obviously extremely well-versed in the political scene, her dissertation field, she treats the important Liberal Kingston Conference of 1960 in some detail, marking it as the beginning of Jewett's activism in the party, a preliminary to her taking leave of absence from Carleton to run for the Liberals in a Northumberland county riding.

Although her first campaign was unsuccessful, Jewett did win in the same riding in 1963; but the events that followed, Pearson's ignoring of her as cabinet material and the Conservative's placing of George Hees as her opponent so that she lost her chance at a second term, convince McKenzie, as they do me, of two major factors in Jewett's political career: the dice were still heavily loaded against women and, important as well, she was first of all an academic. Neither her temperament nor her learning nor her vocabulary gave her as much of the "common touch" as she needed. She was a first rate, behind-the-scenes policy-maker, with the principles and the trained mind that made her a formidable supporter of her party's best platforms, but her parliamentary career was a rocky road from the beginning.

When in 1974 she became president of Simon Fraser, things had begun to be very different for women. Canadian academics were enjoying what we now call "the golden years." By the mid-seventies the time was right for the first woman's presidency. In that decade, when presidents were ousted with alarming frequency, and at Simon Fraser especially, where from the beginning Jewett's areas of specialization, Political Science and Economics, had been flash-points of controversy, she was a logical and an intelligent choice. Furthermore, in spite of very real and unavoidable difficulties she fulfilled her mandate successfully. Simon Fraser had been under censure from the Canadian Association of University Teachers, a serious business and one that both administrations and faculties across the country took seriously. Eventually, under Jewett's leadership, the censorship was lifted. She made the university familiar and popular in the Burnaby and then in the larger Vancouver community. Finally, and most important, she played a large and enthusiastic part in the Canadianization of Simon Fraser as well as in the equitable treatment of women. As one whom she canvassed personally when a search for a chair of the English Department was in progress, I was among many women who appreciated such a vote of confidence. She made sure that her departments were all alerted to the necessity of raising markedly the percentage of Canadians on Faculty—only 58 per cent at Simon Fraser when she arrived.

However, she had had a tantalizing experience of being where the parliamentary action was, and she cut her term by one year in order to involve herself again, this time seeking nomination in the New Democratic Party. Thus began the years that almost certainly gave her the greatest satisfactions of her career. Among Canadian women she was high-profile and an admired mentor; under Broadbent's leadership of the party she was vocal and increasingly highly regarded; and, of prime importance, the New Democratic Party was then entering its most successful federal years. Through the turbulent '80s she was in the forefront of parliamentary causes and conflicts, Star Wars, the Cruise missile and Meech Lake.

In the late '80s, She retired from public life, but by no means into obscurity. For many years she had worked at top pitch (without a margin, as we who have experienced the tensions often say), and like many another she had grown to like her scotch too well, but she cut that out completely and continued the fight she had begun. She fought for her principles, for opportunities to reach her potential, for the Canada whose present and future she cherished beyond measure. Most important of all to other women she worked unceasingly for respect and equity with men, in education, opportunity, and pay.