

# Gooding (Carr; later Golding), Evelyn (1877–1960)



Evelyn Golding

Photo courtesy of *Australasian Record*, March 19, 1956.

## MILTON HOOK

Milton Hook, Ed.D. (Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, the United States). Hook retired in 1997 as a minister in the Greater Sydney Conference, Australia. An Australian by birth Hook has served the Church as a teacher at the elementary, academy and college levels, a missionary in Papua New Guinea, and as a local church pastor. In retirement he is a conjoint senior lecturer at Avondale College of Higher Education. He has authored *Flames Over Battle Creek*, *Avondale: Experiment on the Dora*, *Desmond Ford: Reformist Theologian, Gospel Revivalist* the *Seventh-day Adventist Heritage Series*, and many magazine articles. He is married to Noeleen and has two sons and three grandchildren.

Evelyn Gooding was a pioneer teacher to Rarotonga and the first Avondale College trained teacher to go to the Pacific Isles.

## Early Life

Evelyn Gooding was born in South Australia in 1877 to Elijah and Charlotte (Ridgway) Gooding. Her parents lost their first two children, Ernest Gabriel and Herbert Clifford, in infancy. Others in the family were Percival (b.1872), May (b.1875), Evelyn (b.1877), Sydney Clarence (b.1879), Adelaide (b.1881), Milton (b.1883), Violet Ruth (b.1886), Junetta Mercy (b.1889), and Ralph Roy (b.1892).<sup>1</sup> The family originally lived in Claire where Elijah conducted a small retail shop. The reading of Seventh-day Adventist tracts was largely instrumental in their acceptance of the Adventist message in 1887. Elijah closed his store on Saturdays and conducted Sabbath services in their home until later moving his family to the city and worshipping with fellow believers in suburban Adelaide.<sup>2</sup>

When the Avondale School for Christian Workers (ASCW) opened in 1897 in Cooranbong, New South Wales, Evelyn was one of four Adelaide young people selected by the church members to benefit from a fund established to loan fees to those showing academic promise.<sup>3</sup> On arrival at the school she was nominated to

train as a teacher under practical instruction from Ella Hughes and, later, Hattie Andre, in the elementary school on campus. Four years were spent in training.<sup>4</sup>

## Years of Service

Evelyn spent 1901 teaching in the new church school at Stanmore, suburban Sydney. She was expected to live off the school fees so that the enterprise would be self-supporting. However, the income scarcely covered her living expenses. In the winter she shivered from lack of adequate clothing and blankets. Every day her lunch consisted of only a few dates and a split-pea sandwich without butter.<sup>5</sup>

The following year, February 1902, she sailed for the Cook Islands under appointment to pioneer a school on Rarotonga. She was the first Avondale-trained teacher to serve in the Pacific Islands. Initially she conducted a small elementary school during the morning hours at Aorangi on Rarotonga Island and then drove a horse and trap to Titikaveka to teach another group in the afternoons. Later, these efforts were combined into one school at Titikaveka.<sup>6</sup> The balmy weather meant she no longer shivered. Her greatest battle was to convince parents of the imperative for students to be punctual and regular in attendance so that they would not miss vital instruction.<sup>7</sup> In mid-1904 Evelyn used her vacation time to go to Raiatea Island in French Polynesia, living with a Christian couple and observing their home school for local children. She was impressed with their compassion and the spiritual tone of their school.<sup>8</sup>

In late 1905 Evelyn had to return to Australia<sup>9</sup> because she had contracted tuberculosis. She was treated for three months.<sup>10</sup> Added to her anxiety was the fact that her younger brother, Milton, was battling the same disease. Unfortunately, he passed away in 1906<sup>11</sup> but Evelyn survived and returned to the ASCW to train as a Bible instructor. The urgent need for school teachers prompted her to cut short her training and teach at another school for a short period before her acceptance as a Bible instructor in the South Australian Conference. She was paid fifteen shillings each week and given a tent to live in, her mother financing the meager furnishings.<sup>12</sup>

## Married Life

Poor health once again forced Evelyn, about 1910, to seek manual employment on a farm. In 1914 she married orchardist John Ormiston Carr in the Arcadia Seventh-day Adventist church, New South Wales.<sup>13</sup> John passed away on July 7, 1922, after a brief illness<sup>14</sup> and Evelyn retraced her steps to Adelaide, South Australia, to care for her aging mother. There, in 1926, Evelyn married another orchardist, widower Joseph Frederick Golding.<sup>15</sup> Later, they retired to the Seventh-day Adventist community in Cooranbong, New South Wales. Joseph passed away on May 17, 1950, and was laid to rest in the nearby Avondale Memorial Cemetery. Evelyn continued as an active community member, forming a Good Cheer Society for aged residents in her village.<sup>16</sup> She passed away on September 20, 1960, and was laid to rest with Joseph in the same cemetery plot. Her tombstone reads: "No

More Pain," indicating she suffered in her final years.<sup>17</sup>

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## NOTES

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