

Women Pharmacists Were Rare To Pocatello Drugstores in 1923

Stoy
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By ROBERT OGG
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Having a woman pharmacist was too new an idea for the drugstores in Pocatello in 1923, reports the first woman graduate of the pharmacy program at what is now Idaho State University.

She is Mrs. Harold (Edith) Stoy of 611 Wayne Ave. in Pocatello, who graduated from the two-year pharmacy course at the Idaho Technical Institute in 1923.

"While I was going to school I worked at Platt Williams' drugstore which used to be on the corner of Second and East Center streets in Pocatello," Mrs. Stoy recalls. She did a variety of work.

"Once I was filling bottles of iodine and a cockroach fell on my arm and iodine sprayed all over," she notes. She also "punched" (filled) capsules and did a number of other jobs, some of them at the professional level.

"I would have stayed with Platt indefinitely but he had a heart attack and closed out," Mrs. Stoy said. Later, after she graduated, she had employment problems.

It was around to most of the drug stores in Pocatello and they just wanted me as a soda

squirt and they just would not hire a woman pharmacist," she said. "It was too new an idea."

In 1923 she married Harold Stoy, a retired postal employe and U.S. Army officer.

Asked if she tried to get employment as a pharmacist after times changed and women were accepted, she stated that her husband worked nights a lot and she wanted to be home when he was off work and not have a job with conflicting hours. Mrs. Stoy, whose maiden name was Chandler, has been a housewife since 1923. She and her husband have two children.

Mrs. Stoy remembers the laboratory work in the pharmacy program she completed.

"The boys called me 'Maggie Jiggs' after the comic strip character because I was so bossy in the lab," she notes with good humor. "Some of the boys would get irritated with me and chase me and I would hide behind a big football hero who would say, 'You leave Maggie alone.'"

She was vice-president of the Tech Pharmaceutical Association in 1923 at the Idaho Technical Institute. She still has the Wickiup, the school yearbook, for that year. To give an idea of the size of the pharmacy

school at that time, she read this passage from the Wickiup:

"One of the biggest accomplishments of the Tech Pharmaceutical Association this year is furnishing the State of Idaho with six young competent registered pharmacists. There were six who went up to take the State Board examination, and six came back with diplomas."

Now there are ISU pharmacy alumni in virtually every town in Idaho, as well as in many parts of the United States and other parts of the world.

In her second year of pharmacy school Mrs. Stoy was a student instructor.

"I taught pharmaceutical Latin because I had had four years of Latin in high school," she notes. "I also corrected Dean Eugene Leonard's test papers."

The pharmacy course she took consisted entirely of science, with no English, speech, or other liberal arts courses.

"We made iodine ointment for the football team and chloroform liniment," she recalls. "It was just part of learning."

She was one of only eight to receive the Ph.G. degree (graduate pharmacist) at ISU in 1923.

Mrs. Stoy spoke of the student rebels of the 1960s. She said she felt they had gotten too much publicity and added that she didn't have much sympathy for them.

But then she recalls with a wry smile that she did take part in a student strike in 1922 when a professor proposed a test the students thought unfair.

"When we went to school we went to learn," Mrs. Stoy said. "We couldn't waste our time. But you only heard about the kids who made the fuss. You

didn't hear about the good kids who were working and trying to make a go of it."

She said however, that she participated in a strike in one of her pharmacy classes when a professor set up a test of 100 drugs to be identified and said he was going to flunk anyone who missed five or more.

Charles R. Frazier, president of the Idaho Technical Institute in 1922 managed to work out a compromise between the students and the professor, and the students eventually agreed to take a modified test.

The Stoy's have lived in Pocatello since their marriage with the exception of the time Mr. Stoy served during World War II.

In 1968, Mrs. Stoy attended the 50th anniversary celebration of the Idaho State University College of Pharmacy which was held in connection with the ISU Homecoming activities. The pharmacy anniversary program was particularly interesting to her because some of the panel discussions presented the advances in pharmacy since she studied.

Noting that invitations were sent to 1,500 ISU College of Pharmacy alumni for the 50th anniversary celebration, Mrs. Stoy said that in 1923 the whole pharmacy school had only 19 students. And the entire campus had not more than 300 students.

Recalling one of the big social events, Mrs. Stoy said, "We had the fanciest pharmacy ball—we were in competition with the engineers and we tried to outdo each other. We worked so hard on the dance decorations we were too tired to enjoy the dance."

Mrs. Stoy has been active in Girl Scout Leadership for 30 years and was honored for her service.

Hunt Supports Academy

I am glad to hear of the good work of our state educational institutions at Lewiston, Moscow, and Albion. Let us carry it a little further; let us give all sections of the state representation. Let us have an academy in the southeastern portion of the state which shall be the pride and one of the bulwarks of our institutions—let us establish this academy at Pocatello and give our children and their children their greatest heritage.

Rep. J. Frank Hunt,
Bannock County, in a speech in the Idaho House of Representatives, 1901