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A Tribute to Harriet B. Vigen

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A TRIBUTE TO HARRIET B. VIGEN

March 8, 1975

HARRIET B. VIGEN IS AN EDUCATOR, A BUSINESS EDUCATOR, A VOCATIONAL BUSINESS EDUCATOR; THE RECIPIENT OF THE OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD FROM THE 1957 BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL APPRAISAL TEAM, AN HONORED AND RESPECTED FRIEND TO ALL OF US HERE, A DEDICATED COLLEAGUE OF THE FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION, AND STAFF AT UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE. WE HONOR HER TODAY FOR 30 YEARS AS A VOCATIONAL INSTRUCTOR.

SHE BEGAN TEACHING AT THE CENTRAL UTAH VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN PROVO IN 1942 AND TAUGHT ALL BUSINESS SUBJECTS THERE FOR SIX YEARS. SHE CAME TO UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE WHICH WAS THEN SALT LAKE AREA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN 1948 AND TAUGHT UNTIL 1972 TO CULMINATE A TOTAL OF 30 YEARS OF DEVOTION TO VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

HARRIET BEGAN HER CAREER WORKING FOR THE COUNTY ATTORNEY IN 1931 FOR \$10 A WEEK. SHE WAS THE COUNTY SECRETARY AND OFFICE MANAGER IN 1934 FOR THE CIVIL WORKS ADMINISTRATION IN MADISON, MINNESOTA FOR \$22 A WEEK. SHE BECAME OFFICE MANAGER OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION IN MADISON, MINNESOTA, WHERE SHE HAD BEEN SECRETARY AND BOOKKEEPER.

TO HELP HER HUSBAND THROUGH SCHOOL AT BYU, SHE ACCEPTED A JOB AT THE PROVO HERALD FOR THE GIGANTIC SUM OF \$12 A WEEK IN 1937. IT WAS PROBABLY THE BEST THING SHE COULD FIND AT THE TIME, BUT SHE USED HER SKILLS THERE TO BECOME AN ACE PROOFREADER, CHECKER AND BILLING CLERK.

WHEN SHE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN HER TEACHING CAREER, SHE HAD A TREMENDOUS BACKGROUND TO PROVIDE REALITY TO THE CLASSROOM.

MRS. VIGEN'S PERSONNEL FILE, WHICH INCLUDES LETTERS AND MEMORANDUM EXCHANGED BETWEEN HER, HER SUPERVISOR, AND THE ADMINISTRATION IS INDEED ONE OF THE FINEST COMPILATIONS OF HISTORY THAT ANY COLLEGE COULD HAVE. THOSE MEMORANDUMS ILLUSTRATE THE DEDICATION OF THE FIRST FACULTY AT THE COLLEGE. IT ILLUSTRATES THE DRIVE AND SPIRIT OF THOSE WITH VISION AND LEADERSHIP, IT ILLUSTRATES CLEARLY HOW THE COLLEGE ITSELF BECAME WHAT IT IS TODAY.

HARRIET VIGEN MASTERED THE INTRICATE DETAILS OF GREGG SHORTHAND AND THEN MASTERED THE TECHNIQUES IN TEACHING THEM. SHE PROVIDED THE STUDENTS WITH THE EXPERTS' RULES IN THE PREPARATION OF GOOD LETTERS AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS; PRECISION IN BOOKKEEPING AND FORMAL REPORTS. SHE TAUGHT THE STUDENTS THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION IN HER BUSINESS MATH AND BUSINESS ENGLISH COURSES. MRS. VIGEN KEPT HERSELF WELL INFORMED AND IMPARTED CULTURE, ETHICS, AND ECONOMICS TO HER STUDENTS.

SHE DEMANDED AND WON FROM THEM THEIR DEEPEST RESPECT AND THEY SEEMED TO REACH HIGHER BECAUSE SHE KNEW WHAT THEY COULD ACCOMPLISH AND SHE TAUGHT THEM WITH THAT IN MIND. THEY ROSE TO HER EXPECTATIONS.

MRS. VIGEN KEPT BUSY OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. SHE ASSISTED THE ADMINISTRATION IN MANY CAPACITIES--THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, THE STUDENT BODY ACTIVITIES, RECOGNITION BANQUETS, SCHOOL CARNIVALS AND ALL THAT WAS ASKED.

MRS. VIGEN RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF BELONGING TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SO THAT SHE COULD IMPROVE HERSELF AND IMPROVE THE STATUS OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION. SHE KEPT A MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEA, THE UEA, THE AVA, THE UVA, THE UBEA, AND WAS ACTIVE IN THE CLASSROOM TEACHERS ASSOCIATION.

MRS. VIGEN WROTE AND PUBLISHED A VERY UNIQUE WORKBOOK WHICH WAS ENTITLED "WHAT DO I DO NOW," WHICH WAS USED IN THE DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST THE SECRETARIAL STUDENTS IN DEVELOPMENT OF CHARM AND PERSONALITY, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

IN THE SPRING OF 1972 MRS. VIGEN WAS AWARDED AN ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE AS AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

MRS. VIGEN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ORGANIZING SAMOTHRACE CLUB, A LADY STUDENT BUSINESS ORGANIZATION. SHE SERVED AS ADVISOR FOR MANY YEARS.

I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE GUIDING INFLUENCE WHICH HARRIET HAS BEEN TO HER STUDENTS, WITH HER DEVOTION AND HER DEDICATION TO THE COLLEGE. SHE SURELY HAS WELDED A STRONG BOND OF FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL WHO HAVE KNOWN AND WORKED WITH HER. IT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY ON BEHALF OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TO PRESENT YOU WITH THE SYMBOL OF THE COLLEGE WHICH YOU LOVE AND TO WHICH YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TOWARD ITS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US, LET ME EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS.