Memorial Resolution

Nettie Prideaux

Miss Nettie Prideaux was born on March 5, 1883 in Mineral Point, Wisconsin where she was living in retirement when she died on May 17, 1967. She graduated from the Normal School in Milwaukee in 1903 and received the Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1924. She also attended the University of Iowa where she studied Library Science. She was a teacher at the Mineral Point High School from 1903 to 1913 and came to the Library staff of the Milwaukee Normal School as Reference Librarian in the fall of 1923. She served in this capacity until the summer of 1947 when she retired because of ill health. She is survived by a sister, Jessie, of Mineral Point and a brother, Benjamin, of Great Falls, Montana.

Miss Prideaux will be remembered by thousands of students and faculty as the occupant of a desk just inside the entrance to the library. Patrons seeking library aid were welcomed by Miss Prideaux, who developed considerable skill in exploiting the limited reference facilities in the library of her time. Students presenting frivolous requests found her somewhat formidable, as did those who attempted to use the library as a social center. She had a protective attitude toward library resources and was likely to be rather curt with people who tried to evade library rules and regulations. She was most concerned with the proper functioning of the library so that the serious searcher would be able to make the best use of library materials.

As a member of a highly respected Mineral Point family, Miss Prideaux personified the virtues of nineteenth century individualists. Her colleagues may recall her pointed remarks about developments in the bureaucratic environment toward which she continued to maintain an objective attitude. It is her spirit of objectivity and her desire to be of service to the serious user of the library which mark her place in the growing tradition of the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

Elizabeth Lee
John Nash
Donald Woods