

Distinguished Alumni

Quinn set standards for women in finance

When Elizabeth Reid Quinn of Albuquerque began her business career, she was one of only a handful of women in the field.

Most brokerage houses hired female clerks, but very few women could be found at upper levels. Quinn would help change that over the course of her career.

"Mrs. Quinn rose to the very pinnacle of her profession as a broker and financial adviser," a nominator says. "Indeed, she scaled those heights before any other woman in the profession and has set the mark for all who follow her."

From the beginning, Quinn was a pioneer. After graduating from UW in 1933, she took a job as a cashier for Donald F. Brown & Co. in Denver. That position was a very responsible position of handling money and securities. Quinn remained with Brown until 1942, when she married her husband, Arthur, and moved to Salt Lake City. Later that year, the Quinns would move again, this time to Kansas City where she worked for 2 1/2 years as a cashier for Stern Brothers & Co., an investment banking firm.

On Their Own

In the spring of 1946, Elizabeth and Arthur took a major step and established their own business.



Elizabeth Quinn

They moved to Albuquerque and began Quinn & Co., focusing on stocks, corporate and municipal bonds and mutual funds.

"At the time Quinn & Co. was established, women were not generally engaged in the investment securities business," another nominator says. "But Elizabeth soon made a place for herself in the business world and became known as a knowledgeable, hard-working, capable, pleasant, courteous business person."

Quinn & Co. began small —

office space was hard to come by at that time. They shared an office and a party line with a friend. It didn't take long to grow, however; the Quinns started their business at a time when people had a few extra dollars to invest. Soon, they were able to afford their own office and eventually expand into larger quarters. By the time the Quinns retired and sold their business to employees in 1977, it had grown to 13 offices in four states.

Though the firm handled much more, Quinn specialized in municipal bonds. Renowned bond experts, their company advised the state of New Mexico from 1962-67.

In 1956, when the firm joined the New York Stock Exchange, she became the first female allied member.

Life at UW

Quinn studied business at UW from 1929-33. University life was quite different from her years at Torrington High School, but she soon got used to the college pace. Quinn joined the Delta Delta Delta sorority and played field hockey and basketball.

"The university did a great deal for us," Quinn says. "College was thrilling to me, and I did get a lot out of it."

Quinn worked her way

through college — at the Commons as a freshman, the home of Law College Dean and Mrs. Kinane as a sophomore and the Music Department as a junior and senior.

A member of the UW Alumni Association, Quinn has been a presence in her community over the years. She has served on various civic and charitable boards, including the Albuquerque Boys Club, Casa Angelica (for handicapped children), Lovelace Medical Foundation, United Community Fund and the Rotary Club (as a Rotary Ann). As a part of the United Community Fund's 1964 campaign, Quinn helped the organization raise \$420,000 in individual gifts. The goal that year was \$17,000.

"Elizabeth exhibits her sterling character in her very presence," according to nominators. "One can recognize instantly, on first meeting, the remarkable qualities of this woman — the high caliber of her character — the dignity of her demeanor. She is charming and attractive; and she has, through a combination of gentle persistence, high intelligence and uncommon energy, forwarded not only the business of brokerage in the state of New Mexico and throughout the United States, but the cause of professional women all over America."

Gilbert autobiography available

Vedauwoo, an autobiography by the late Harold Gilbert of Sheridan, describes the author's experiences growing up in Wyoming.

Copies are available through the UW Bookstore and others around the state. Gilbert, BS '26, MA '27, wrote off and on through his life; his wife, Hila, found the unfinished manuscript after his death and published the work in 1990.

Born in 1897 at Council Bluffs, Iowa, Gilbert arrived with his

family in Lander in 1906. At UW, he was active in the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (president two years), Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Phi Kappa Phi, Theta Alpha Phi and Sigma Psi. He played football for five years and served two years as captain.

Gilbert taught at UW for 15 years. He also was on the first faculty at Sheridan College, where he taught speech and agriculture from 1948 to 1967. Gilbert died in Sheridan on Oct. 17, 1987.

Holdings set up ag scholarship fund

A \$100,000 donation for College of Agriculture scholarships has been given to UW by Carol and Earl Holding, Little America, Cheyenne.

The scholarship fund will benefit Wyoming students interested in careers in ranching and agriculture, according to Joe Kunsman, College of Agriculture associate dean/resident instructor.

Scholarships resulting from the Holdings' donation will be awarded to incoming freshmen and sophomores from Wyoming enrolled in animal science, agricultural economics, range management and related areas. This financial support for new

students helps them to better concentrate on academics in the important first years of school and to persist throughout their total college career, according to Kunsman.

The total number of Holding scholarships available is to be determined, Kunsman says. Well over 200 scholarship applications are received by the college each year. Approximately 50 scholarships based on existing resources are usually awarded by a review committee that assigns awards based on scholarship, activities, citizenship and need.

Agriculture is one of Wyoming's basic industries.



Muscle power

THE ANNUAL CAR PUSH is just one of several traditions that make Homecoming weekend special. Alumni will join students, faculty, staff and university friends in Laramie Oct. 12-13 for two days of rollicking fun. (UW Photo)