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Campus Journalism- 50 Years Old

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Campus journalism—50 years old

By Ruth Abbott and Jane Rowe
Technical Journalism Juniors

AN ENTERPRISING SCOTLANDER, a Mr. Ogilvie, and his successors get a proud salute from campus journalists and alumni during Homecoming, October 21 and 22. Ogilvie began 50 years of journalism for the college as Iowa State's first teacher of journalism for credit.

Students and alumni are looking way back to 1905, celebrating their 50th anniversary with a special banquet and open houses.

The Iowa Homemaker and its staff members join in marking journalistic milestones. Until 1921, sixteen years after the college had its taste of the journalism field, there was no department for home economics journalists.

In that year, with foresighted rebellion, the home economics students decided that instead of printing their writings in the Agriculturalist campus magazine, they would break away and publish a magazine of their own.

They tackled the first problem set by Dr. F. W. Beckman, department head. He demanded that 500 subscriptions be sold before they could take any publication action.

Editor Elizabeth Storm, Business Manager Jesse McCorkingdale and Circulation Manager Eloise Parsons determined to make their dream a realization. They wrote alumnae and knocked on doors until they had reached their goal—500 subscriptions to a non-existent magazine.

The first editor, now Mrs. Elizabeth Storm Ferguson, of Ames, nostalgically recalls how proud she was to present the initial draft to Mr. Beckman, and although he offered many criticisms, the Iowa Homemaker had at least come into being.

Mrs. Ferguson explains that originally the Homemaker, then identified as the "magazine for homemakers from a homemaker's school," was to take information from the college to residents of the state and did not serve in its present capacity as a campus magazine.

Students interested in journalistic activities wrote the magazine but could not major in the field at that time.

In 1935 Miss Kay Goepfinger, now home economics consultant for the Iowa State College Press, taught the first class in home economics journalism.

Ogilvie's class in 1905 was the beginning of an ever growing department now celebrating 50 years past and preparing for its next step, the radio and television major.

THE IOWA HOMEMAKER