

Florence Yorke  
Boyce

## County resident was first married woman pharmacist

By MARG HAYLOCK  
Staff Reporter

PICTON - The first married woman to graduate as a pharmacist in Ontario, Florence York Boyce, 88, died Monday at Prince Edward County Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Boyce was an honor graduate of the Ontario College of Pharmacy in Toronto. She was one of three women in her class and the only married, female student. She was the only woman in her class, later, to attend the University of Toronto to earn a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree.

"I became a pharmacist because of my father-in-law," said Mrs. Boyce in an interview with *The Intelligencer* in 1979.

She had been a school teacher and had taught at Greenbush and Consecon. After her marriage to the late Harold Boyce, in 1912, she moved to Sydenham, near Kingston, where she served her pharmacist's apprenticeship with her father-in-law, who owned a drug store.

"At that time, you served four years as an apprentice and took a year at school. Today it is almost the opposite," she said, in the interview.

After graduating from the University of Toronto, Mrs. Boyce returned to Sydenham and ran the drug store there for

28 years. She and her husband then retired in Prince Edward County.

After her retirement, Mrs. Boyce was contacted by Picton druggist Sam Teasel, who needed a temporary replacement because he had the flu. What began as just a few weeks work stretched to a year's employment. Other local druggists learned that she was a registered pharmacist and she was asked to work in each of the town's four drug stores, on many occasions. She retired from this part-time work several years ago.

In 1969, Mrs. Boyce received a 50th anniversary certificate to mark her long career.

A former resident of 31 Hill Street, Mrs. Boyce had been living at Hallowell House, since 1979.

Funeral services will be held at the Whattam Funeral Home here on Friday, Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. with Timothy Kember of the Gospel Hall officiating. Interment will be in Glenwood Cemetery vault with burial at Black River Bridge Cemetery in the spring.

Mrs. Boyce is survived by a daughter Mrs. Vinal (Rosemary) Clarke of Oshawa, four grandchildren, two great grandchildren, a brother, Stewart York of Black Creek and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Harold and a son, Albert.

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