

Florence Boyce

EDWARD COUNTY - **FLORENCE BOYCE** *Standard Feb 18/82*
Pharmacist's 50-year career spent in Sydenham and Picton
 BIOGRAPHY - "B"

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Whig-Standard Staff Writer

PICTON

Florence Boyce, who in 1919 was the first married woman to graduate as a pharmacist in Ontario, died here Monday at the age of 88.

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

The degree was optional until about 1929. When Mrs. Boyce first graduated the pharmacy course for a diploma was one year at the college, preceded by a three or four year apprenticeship with a registered pharmacist.

"I became a pharmacist because of my father-in-law," Mrs. Boyce explained in an interview in 1980. "My father-in-law was a pharmacist and so was my husband, but he had worked in the States and his qualifications were not accepted here."

Mrs. Boyce, who had been working in her father-in-law's drug store in Sydenham as a clerk, enjoyed her job so much that she decided to return to school to become a full-fledged pharmacist.

Born in Jones Falls in Leeds County, she was raised in Prince Edward County and is a graduate of Prince Edward Collegiate Institute. She met her husband, Harold, when both were lodgers at the same Picton boarding house. The couple moved to Sydenham following their marriage.

"Drugstores were very different, in those days from what they are today," she once recalled. "We did a lot of our own manufacturing right from the individual ingredients. We made pills, although not in the same sense as today. They were put up in papers, each folded paper holding once dose."

Mrs. Boyce spent 38 years in the pharmacy and after retirement worked part-time in all of the town's drug stores until a few years ago.

The College of Pharmacy gave her a 50th anniversary certificate in 1969 to mark her long career.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Vinal Clarke (Rosemary) of Oshawa, and predeceased by a son, Albert. A brother, Stewart York, lives at Black Creek.

Mrs. Boyce is resting at the Whattam Funeral Home in Picton for service in the chapel on Friday at 2 p.m. Interment will be in Black River Bridge Cemetery in the spring.

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