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### Gertrude Stewart completes 45 years of service for University of Montana

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# NEWS

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## MRS. STEWART COMPLETES 45 YEARS OF SERVICE FOR UM

Forty-five years and five months ago Mrs. Gertrude Stewart's maiden name first appeared on the University of Montana payroll as a part-time telephone operator.

Last week, the former Gertrude Hubber retired after having worked in almost every building on the Missoula campus. She began her service October 1921 in Main Hall on the school's first telephone switchboard.

Mrs. Stewart actually came to the University in the fall of 1919 as a freshman from Belt majoring in business administration. She was 17-years old and a graduate of Belt High School.

She began her University service as a full-time employee in March 1922 as secretary to the state supervising architect, whose office was then in the newly completed forestry building.

Mrs. Stewart, determined to finish her education, attended 8 a.m. classes six days a week and worked Saturday afternoons to make up the time she lost while in class. In 1925 she received her degree in business administration with special training in accounting and secretarial technique.

She married John "Joc" Stewart in 1926. He was an UM athletic director and basketball and track coach in the early twenties. He died in 1943. One of her two step-children Dr. John Stewart is chairman of the UM chemistry department, and the other is Mrs. Helen Gates, a resident of Lewistown.

MORE

Mrs. Stewart  
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For 26 years, Mrs. Stewart was employed as secretary to the director of food service, residence halls and family housing. The office location was moved frequently and by 1958, when she was transferred to the business office, she had worked in almost every building on the campus. She was an accountant in the business office until her retirement at the end of February.

Mrs. Stewart saw the University of Montana grow from 750 students in 1919 to about 6,100 in the fall of 1966. She also watched the campus grow from five to a complex of more than 50 buildings.

She said she has witnessed during her tenure an upgrading in the caliber of student attending the University.