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UM geology student becomes a "first"

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Dailies

UM GEOLOGY STUDENT BECOMES A "FIRST"

MISSOULA--

Ann Stradley is the first woman to earn a Ph.D in geology from the University of Montana. The Choteau native finished her course work for the degree in 1974 and came back this summer to defend her dissertation.

The main theme of Stradley's study is potential water development from sub-surface porous limestone. Her area of study extends from the mountains around Choteau east to Fort Benton-- an area of current oil exploration activity.

Stradley said that much of the material for her dissertation was obtained from oil drilling site information, as water and oil can occur in the same kind of rock formations. She would eventually like to work in the petroleum or hydrology industries or be a consultant, but this summer Stradley worked on her father's harvest crew.

That's how she first got into the water exploration area of geology-- by living on a farm and recognizing the different production potential between irrigated ground and dry land.

When Stradley got her B.S. degree in 1967 she was one of two women in the geology department at Montana State University in Bozeman. Now, Stradley says that although it's still unusual for a woman to get a doctorate in geology, "the field is full of women." Last year 14 of the 49 graduate students in the UM geology department were female.

(over)

UM GEOLOGY STUDENT--

Stradley is the daughter of Leslie and Gladys Chalmers of Choteau.
Dr. Chalmers taught Agricultural Economics at Eastern Montana College in
Billings for a number of years.

Roger Stradley, Ann Stradley's husband, is with Gallatin Flying Service
in Bozeman. The Stradleys also run an aerial crop-spraying business. They
have two daughter, Anna, 6 , and Lora, 14 months.

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