

Audrey Stubbart

Newspaper Woman
1895-2000

by Barbara Magerl

Audrey Stubbart was married at age 15, homesteaded on a ranch in Wyoming, earned a teaching certificate, taught in a one-room school, and had five children. The early part of her life certainly set a pattern for being productive.

When she and her husband moved to Independence, Missouri, in 1944 that pattern continued. She worked as a publishing house proofreader until she was required to retire at age 65.

After one day of leisure, she took a “temporary position” as proofreader at *The Examiner*, Independence’s daily newspaper. The job lasted nearly 40 years. Her copy desk became “the Audrey Zone,” where she emphasized complete accuracy out of respect for readers and love of the English language. The former teacher and perfectionist mentored young journalists but let bosses know that they, too, made grammar and spelling errors!

Besides proofreading, she wrote a weekly column, working long after her children retired. In 1992 she was Missouri’s Older Worker of the Year, chosen as a role model who greatly contributed to her community. She won many local honors and was listed in *Who’s Who of American Women*.

Her life wasn’t all work, however. At 88 she visited the Holy Land and rode a camel in Egypt. At 94 she toured England and Scotland. Her motto was “learn something every day.” She believed people stay younger through learning and work. At 100 she still sang in her church choir.

Working fulltime through age 105, various media saluted her. She was featured on major television channels, a *Parade Magazine* cover, and in a two-page spread in *U.S. News and World Report*.

In May 2000, she fell at her home. A month later she went directly from the hospital to *The Examiner*’s celebration for her 105th birthday. She retired in August and passed away November 14.



Fittingly, the perfectionist died just after the daily paper was completed. She was an inspiration to all who knew her.

Sources

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