

## A Notable Woman - Carolyn Rolfson Sargis



It has often been said that during her long period of employment at UWSP, Carolyn Rolfson Sargis “ran” this school.

She was the business manager, a trusted aide to seven presidents (chancellors) during her 43-year tenure from 1919 to 1962.

“Miss Rolfson” was responsible for such diverse functions as budget management and planning, student registration, purchasing (everything from frogs for biology labs to coal for the heating plant), cashier, payroll, student

scholarships, printing, personnel and a broad miscellaneous category.

Her career was longer than any other classified civil service employee in the history of UWSP.

In 1985, she was honored with the announcement that an award was being established to honor special contributions and outstanding service to UWSP by classified state workers. She was the first recipient.

When receiving the recognition, she said she was pleased that winners would be “behind-the-scenes people who keep the university running.”

Rolfson was a native of Wittenberg, attended Whitewater State Normal School and graduated from the Wausau Business Institute. She joined the staff of the Stevens Point State Normal School when she was 22. The entire faculty and staff then numbered about 50. There were 475 students.

A pioneer career woman of Stevens Point, she was a charter member of the Business and Professional Women’s Club and was the past local president and regional officer. In 1981, the organization named her “Woman of the Year.” She did volunteer work for the American Red Cross for 40 years.

Rolfson married George Sargis in 1964, two years after her retirement. She died in 1991 at age 92.