

## A Notable Woman – Bertha Glennon



Bertha Glennon, who was said to have been Stevens Point's first papergirl, continued her interest in writing and journalism at UWSP long after her days of delivering newspapers were over.

"Miss Glennon" was the daughter of John Glennon, one of the editors of the *Gazette*, a newspaper which later merged with the *Stevens Point Journal*. She taught English at both the college and high school levels and served at UWSP from 1940 until 1969. During her years at the university, it is estimated she taught about 6,000 students.

Although she specialized in English literature, her newspaper background as a youth kept her involved in journalism throughout her teaching career. During her tenure at UWSP, Glennon served for many years as adviser of *The Pointer*, the student newspaper, and *The Iris*, the student yearbook. In the days when the university had no office to handle publicity, she wrote articles about campus people and events for Wisconsin newspapers in addition to her other responsibilities.

In 1978 the university dedicated in her name its journalism/print laboratory and class facility developed in the newly converted Communication Arts Center. At the dedication ceremony of the facility, she was honored by the late Lowell Thomas. Thomas, who won fame as a broadcaster/author/lecturer, described her as "a lovely, beautiful lady, so much younger than I am." At the time, Glennon was 78 and Thomas was 86.

Glennon received her two-year diploma from Stevens Point Normal in 1920 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1924 and her master's degree in 1939 from University of Madison. Following a long illness, she died in 1983 at age 83.