

Ella Sligar Class of 2009



Ella Sligar performed huge amounts of good work for schools and communities with an incisive level of professionalism. Ella's accomplishments were performed utilizing a high level of energy, a trait that stands as a personal trademark.

Born in 1911, Ella was one of three daughters. Her father passed away during her young life leaving Martha Sligar alone to raise the family. Progressing from that rough start, it became clear from Ella's choices what goals she had set for herself.

While attending Oroville High School from '24-'28, she formed a foundation for enduring active community involvement. She was a successful athlete in baseball and volleyball and was an officer in the Girls Athletic Association. As an outstanding student, she was accepted to the University of California at Berkeley.

At Cal, from '28-'32, she earned an A.B. in Mathematics. While stacking up honors in the Mathematics Honor Society, Pi Mu Epsilon, and the Physics Honor Society, Etta Nu Epsilon, Ella was busy outside the University. She worked full-time at a soda shop to fund herself through college. She still found time to play basketball and water polo for the Golden Bears of the Western Athletic Association.

Ella's hard-earned successes at Berkeley were keys to the decades of service she carried out after returning to Biggs and Oroville.

Her career as a professional educator began in Biggs in the '30's-early '40's. She moved to OUHS in the '50's-early '60's and taught at Las Plumas High School from '62-'76. While raising a family, she returned to college at the age of 49 and earned a Master's Degree in Counseling from Cal State Chico.

She became head of the LP Math Department, the counseling department and served for more than 25 years on the U.C. Berkeley scholarship committee. Ella was a past president and secretary of the U.C. Berkeley Alumni Butte County chapter.

Some of her community service included: secretary of the Methodist Church, president of the YMCA "White Riggers", matron and grand matron of the Eastern Star, president and lifetime member of the Biggs Parent Teachers Association, "Y" camp counselor, and president of the Biggs Community Club. She was also a member of the Butte County Mental Health Advisory Board. She was an officer and member of Delta Kappa Gamma society of women educators and Kappa Phi society for Christian university women.

With her financial, motivational and organizational support, five high school scholarships were generated by Ella Sligar for the purpose of helping to continue the educations of graduating students from OHS, LP and Biggs High Schools.

In 1969 she wrote, "My goal has always been to give some inspiration to young people to continue their education. If even one person has been inspired, there has been some degree of success, but only in future years will the total success be determined."