

NOBLE, Andrewa. March 28, 1908–November 21, 1993.

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY (BA 1929), UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (MA 1934, PhD 1935).

Andrewa Rebecca Noble was the second of four children of Grace (Marshall) (1878–1922) and Emory James Noble (1880–1959). Her parents were born in the Portland, Oregon, area: her father in Oregon City and her mother in Portland; they married in 1903. Her mother attended high school in Portland and later was a teacher and a housewife. Her father had an LLB degree from the University of Oregon and was an attorney. Andrewa Noble and her siblings were born in Oregon City and all attended college. The eldest, Louise (1906–1995), was a teacher and housewife; John Wesley (1913–1975) was a newspaperman and professional writer; and Inez (1916–1994) was a stenographer and housewife and served in the Women's Army Corps in World War II.

Andrewa Noble attended public elementary school 1913–21 and high school 1921–25 in Oregon City. At graduation she received an honor scholarship to Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. Four years later she graduated from Pacific magna cum laude. While at Pacific, she was involved with the drama club; was a member of the Women's Athletic Association; and played soccer, basketball, and volleyball. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Delta, a local sorority, and worked on the university's yearbook. She was active in the debate club and earned the Witham debate cup her junior year. In her senior year she was the vice president of ASPU, the student association, and was editor of *The Index*, the college newspaper. She served as the permanent secretary of her graduating class of 1929. The year following her graduation she was vice president of the alumni council and was living in Gladstone, Oregon.

In 1930 Noble became a high school teacher in Tosten, Montana, and taught there until 1932. She was a graduate student at the University of California 1933–35. While in Berkeley she earned a master's degree in 1934 and a doctorate in 1935. She studied, among other subjects, logic with A. B. Bernstein, projective differential geometry with [Pauline Sperry](#), and number theory with D. N. Lehmer, who directed her dissertation in that area. She became a life member of the University of California's alumni association.

During 1935–36 Noble was a teacher in Colstrip, Montana, and the following year she was superintendent of schools there. She taught in a high school in the state of Washington 1937–38. In 1940 Noble became an instructor at San Francisco Junior College and stayed in that position until 1945, serving as coordinator of the remedial arithmetic program from 1942. She was appointed instructor at Montana State University (now University of Montana) in Missoula sometime before July 1946 and spent the academic year 1946–47 as an assistant professor there.

In 1947 Noble returned to her alma mater, Pacific University, and was an associate professor and secretary of the faculty for two years. It appears she then lived with her brother in Oakland, California, for some time before joining the faculty at Mills College in 1952. From 1952 until 1957 she was assistant professor of mathematics and physics and head of the department at Mills, a women's college in Oakland. From 1957 to 1959 she was assistant professor at Chico State College before returning to Pacific University, where she was to teach the last eight years of her career. She was associate professor 1959–1961 and professor from 1961 until her retirement in 1965. She also served as chairman of the department at Pacific.

In the 1960s she served as chairman of the chemistry, physics, and mathematics section of the Northwest Scientific Association.

Noble belonged to the Protestant Episcopal Church and maintained a life membership in the Townsend, Montana, Order of the Eastern Star. While in college she served on the Hoover for President Commission. She was a Republican and served as precinct committeewoman in Forest Grove in the 1960s. She served as the official scorer of the Pacific University basketball team 1962–63 and counted stamp collecting among her hobbies.

After her retirement, Noble lived for a number of years in Auburn, California, and in Forest Grove, Oregon, alternating between them every few years, according to combined membership lists of the professional mathematics organizations. In the last half of the 1980s she was living in Forest Grove and in the 1990s in Auburn. She died in Placer County, in which Auburn, California, is located, at age eighty-five in 1993.

Organizational affiliations: AMS, MAA, AAAS, Sigma Xi, Pi Mu Epsilon.

Dissertation:

1935 On the enumeration of uniform squares. PhD dissertation, University of California, directed by Derrick Norman Lehmer. Typewritten.

Publications:

1947 The remedial arithmetic program at the San Francisco Junior College and its implications in the teaching of science. *Northwest Science* 21 (1): 12–13. Presented to the Northwest Scientific Assoc., Spokane, WA, 27 Dec 1946.

Abstract not listed above:

1953 Mathematics in a women's college. *Amer. Math. Monthly* 60:668 #5. Presented to the MAA, Missoula, MT, 19 Jun 1953.

References to: AmMSc 7–8, 9P–11P; AmMWSc 12P.

Other sources: PhD dissertation biographical information 1935; Smithsonian questionnaire 1985; University of California alumni office; communication with Pacific University Archives; US Census 1910, 1920 OR; SSDI.

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