

OBITUARY

Dr. Margaret K. Seikel

Dr. Margaret (Gretchen) K. Seikel died unexpectedly of cancer on 30 July 1969 in Madison, Wisconsin, at the age of 57. She was active in the Plant Phenolics Group of North America (the predecessor of the Phytochemical Society of North America) from its inception, was elected President in 1964, and was organizer and Chairman of the Society's 1967 symposium (*Recent Advances in Phytochemistry*, edited by M. K. Seikel and V. C. Runeckles, Vol. 2, Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, 1969).

An outstanding expert on the chemistry of plant phenolics, her numerous publications dealt with plant pigments, C-glycosylflavonoids, ellagitannins, lignans, barley flavonoids, chemotaxonomy, chromatographic procedures, the phenolic constituents of heartwood and related subjects. She was also the author of two book chapters, "Isolation and Identification of Phenolic Compounds in Biological Materials" in J. B. Harborne's *Biochemistry of Phenolic Compounds*, and "Chromatographic Methods of Separation, Isolation, and Identification of Flavonoid Compounds" in T. A. Geissman's *Chemistry of Flavonoid Compounds*.

After obtaining her B.S. and M.S. degrees at Mt. Holyoke College, she received her Ph.D. degree from M.I.T. She then joined the faculty of Wellesley, rising to become Chairman of the Chemistry Department. During this time, she spent 2 years as a Sarah Berliner Research Fellow at the University of California at Los Angeles working with Dr. T. A. Geissman. She has been a member of the staff of the Forest Products Laboratory, U.S. Department of Agriculture, since 1961. She was a member of numerous scientific organizations including Phi Beta Kappa. As President of the Beta chapter of Sigma Delta Epsilon, Dr. Seikel organized and conducted a conference on Women in Science in 1966. She has lectured at laboratories and universities throughout the world and recently spent 9 months in Australia on a senior research grant collaborating with Dr. W. E. Hillis.

Dr. Seikel's devotion to research on plants was matched by her love of nature, and she was an active participant and officer in the Sierra Club.