

12-7-1984

## 12/07/1984 - Mrs Agnes

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### Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "12/07/1984 - Mrs Agnes" (1984). 1984. 396.  
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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Charleston, Illinois

# news

December 7, 1984

L/A

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--A lively lady whose career in journalism spans more than half a century, who is an admirer of the prophet Micah and who believes that people should never stop learning, will receive a degree at Eastern Illinois University's fall semester commencement on December 16.

Mrs. Agnes (Aggie) Smith of Robinson has earned the B.A. degree through a program offered by the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities. The Board of Governors B.A. program at Eastern has an enrollment of approximately 850 adults, most of whom, like Aggie, are pursuing a degree while also carrying the responsibilities of career and family.

With her husband, Victor, Aggie is co-owner of the Robinson Argus, a weekly newspaper, and of the Argus Printing House, the parent operation. Combining work and study, she has continued her education throughout her adult life.

She holds an associate degree from Vincennes University, she has been both a student and a teacher at Lincoln Trail Community College near Robinson, and she has taken courses at Indiana State University, McKendree College, American University, and Eastern.

Aggie's age? She prefers to cite it this way: "75 years plus and I wanted to graduate before I was 80." But she doesn't just pay lip service to her theory of continuing one's education. In addition to finishing requirements for the BOG degree, she and her husband have just completed a course on the Old Testament.

That's where Micah comes in. She wrote a paper about the prophet as part of her final exam and this research turned her into a strong fan of Micah.

Aggie became a part-time employee in the Argus bindery department while she was a high school student. She recalls, "Following graduation I was promoted

Aggie Smith

add 1

to the front office and was delighted to use my newly learned shorthand and typing skills."

She added, "Driving a car was one of the thrills of my young life and one of my duties was chauffeuring G.W. Harper (the paper's founder) from his home to the newspaper office. He was very much in favor of participating in community affairs and becoming well acquainted with people in Crawford County."

Aggie took seriously the idea of community affairs participation and this led rapidly to state and national activities. Most notably she has served as national vice president of Delta Theta Tau sorority; participated as a delegate in two National Society DAR Continental Congresses; accompanied Victor to four national Republican conventions; edited CHIMES, the news bulletin of the Southern Illinois Conference of United Methodist Women; attended in Wales the investiture of Prince Charles; and toured nearly a dozen nations.

A gratifying moment came to Aggie and Victor when the Argus, now 120 years old, was recently honored as a "Century Business" by the Illinois State Historical Society as part of the society's Centennial Business Program.

Now Aggie and Victor are looking forward to their imminent retirement. When that happens, the Argus torch will be passed to their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Scarpone, the fourth generation in the business.

As a parting thought, Aggie quotes Charles Dana with whom she agrees on newspaper philosophy: "A journalist must be interested in politics, economics and government, but first of all in people." Aggie enjoys her involvement with many people but mentions, especially, her friends at Eastern.

Among those with whom she worked closely were Dr. Shirley Neal, Coordinator of the Board of Governors Degree Program, and Dr. Dan Thornburgh, Director of University Relations and Development and Chairperson of the Department of Journalism.

Aggie Smith

add 2

When Aggie Smith crosses that commencement platform in Lantz Gym sometime after 2 p.m. and is handed her diploma by President Stanley Rives, she's going to be mighty happy.

The event will be a big highlight in her life, but it probably won't be the capstone. Somehow, one has the idea that Aggie Smith will keep moving.