

The First 50 Women in Idaho Law

MARY HENRIETTA McGLONE

August 2, 1947

(1909 – 1966)

Mary Henrietta McGlone was born in Pocatello on August 24, 1909, to Patrick H. and Margaret Ann McGlone. She is described as being “from a pioneer family of Pocatello” - her father was a blacksmith and her mother a housewife. McGlone had two sisters, Julia V. McGlone and Catherine F. (McGlone) Arps. McGlone grew up and went to school in Pocatello, graduating from St. Joseph’s High School in 1927. Thereafter, she attended Business College in Pocatello from September 1927 to March 1928.

McGlone worked at Kraft Cheese Company in Pocatello as a clerk from 1933-34, but then decided to move to Washington, D.C., and work for the United States Department of Agriculture as a Comptometer operator (an early version of a calculator that had many rows of keys that could perform high speed addition and multiplication). She stayed in Washington, D.C. for two years, and then moved to Colorado to take a semester’s worth of classes at the Denver Stenotype School. After completing her classes, McGlone returned to Pocatello where she went to work as a secretary in the law firm of Jones, Pomeroy & Jones for “seven hours per day for six days each week” beginning in May 1937.

After working in the law firm of Jones, Pomeroy & Jones, McGlone became interested in pursuing a career in law. She began studying the law an “average of two hours per day” in preparation for the bar. Because she didn’t have a college degree, McGlone was required to take and pass an examination “with respect to her equivalency of general college education.” After doing so, she sat for and passed the Idaho Bar and was admitted as the eighteenth woman to practice law in Idaho on August 2, 1947. Although the records of McGlone’s activities thereafter are incomplete, it is believed that she continued working in the office of Jones, Pomeroy & Jones to help relieve the “terrific load in the office” mentioned by Ralph H. Jones in McGlone’s bar application materials.

In 1953, McGlone moved to San Francisco to join her sister Catherine and her husband who lived there. McGlone became active as a member of the St. Thomas More Catholic Church and a charter member of the Soroptimist Club in San Francisco. She was also a member of the American Bar Association. In 1963, she allowed her Idaho license to go inactive.

McGlone, who never married, died at the age of 57 in San Francisco on December 3, 1966.