

INDUCTEE

RUTH EARL

Graduated 1930

Resides. Gahanna

Having grown up in the Gahanna community, Ruth graduated with her 20 fellow classmates in 1930. Following high school graduation, she enrolled in the education program at Capital University where she earned her teaching certificate in the two-year program.

She began her teaching career in the Gahanna schools teaching at the Gahanna Elementary School, then located on Short Street (now a restored office building). She devoted the next eleven years (1932-1943) to creating a successful learning situation for the young people she taught in the 3rd grade. During the summers she took every opportunity to travel with friends going by bus or car to many parts of the United States.

After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor everyone was looking for a way to serve their country and in March of 1943, a little more than a year after the United States entered World War II, Ruth decided she could best serve her country by joining the Women's Army Corps (WACs). She was on active duty from 1943 until the war ended in 1945. She was stationed in England 90 miles north of London as a radio operator with the 8th Air Force and held the rank of corporal. Although travel was not easy during the war, Ruth managed to see a bit of England and even got to Scotland.

When Ruth returned home to Ohio after she was mustered out of the army, her first thought was to go back to school. Using the GI Bill benefits, she returned to Capital University and graduated in 1947. Now she sought a new kind of employment with the State of Ohio where she worked with the Veterans Administration in Columbus, mostly dealing with insurance needs. When the VA office was relocated to Philadelphia, Ruth chose the VA office in Denver, Colorado, as her next location.

In 1952 following her penchant for travel and work for the military, she decided on a short stay in Hawaii. She relocated to Honolulu and worked at Hickam Air Force Base as Head of the Location Department until her retirement in 1973. She continued to live in Hawaii after her retirement. Her "short stay" had become almost half a lifetime. . . and still the wanderlust prevailed as she set off on a trip around the world.

Finally, in 1994 Ruth moved back to Gahanna to the place where she grew up. She has been to every state but Alaska and numerous countries throughout the world; but she makes her home here now. She is a member of the Mifflin Presbyterian Church and spends much of her time reading mysteries and historical fiction. As a result of a hip injury, Ruth has had to curtail any long trips but if a friend calls and says "Let's go," she's ready to grab her coat and purse and take off for lunch or whatever is planned--still "on the go" to places unknown or known.