

Gena Hovet wrote the following account of her life's experiences in work. After her death, the original handwritten account was found among her belongings.

My Experiences in Life

Teaching

Four years in rural schools in Richland County. One year at Lamont in a rural school. Three years in Wheelock teaching 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades. One year at Kragnes (rural). One year at Billingham, Washington, grades 1st through 4th. Two years at Russell, MN. 3rd and 4th grades. During the war I did substitute teaching and also taught Social Studies in Junior High in New Mexico. I have taught the blind, handicapped and various other rooms including regular classrooms where I'd teach any grade from kindergarten through 8th grade. My last experience in teaching was in Seattle where I spent about 20 years teaching 2nd grade most of the time and sometimes I'd teach a combination 1st and 2nd or combination 2nd and 3rd grade. I had quite an experience with PTA's. Have been chosen as representative for the teachers.

Clerking

Kress Dime store in Fargo as household goods clerk and crafts clerk, etc. Penney's in Fargo selling dresses, coats, and linen department. Penney's in Valley City while attending school. (I needed money.) Variety store selling any item needed.

Other

Lieby store - here I was a waitress. This didn't last long as I didn't like this work. One day I was walking along the street when the manger from the dime store met me and asked me to come back there for work. The next day I was back there and happy. Mr. Lieby said I hadn't given myself time enough to see whether I liked it or not.

I did baby sitting and housework while attending school. During the war I worked at a 1) box factory. 2) Insurance company as a file clerk. The manger asked me if I'd like to change jobs - of course I was eager so he put me in as a 3) telephone operator. This I liked. 4) I worked at Ford Motors in Minneapolis as inspector of gears. Here I learned to read blue prints and was at the head of the department. 5) I have worked at a battery factory in Madison, Wisconsin and laundry - I folded sheets, etc.

In our apartment building I used to paint walls and paper. If Selmer wasn't home I'd rent out apartments. Selmer was better in this line than I was. That is why I sold as I never knew who would come to the door. Some pretty scary. Also I had to hire for anything that needed fixing.

I've taught Sunday School and Summer Bible School. Picked strawberries on an island at West Coast. Lasted one day. While on the home farm I milked cows, shocked, picked potatoes, helped in haying, housework.

After I retired from teaching I tutored children that needed extra help. I have my BA which was earned mostly through summer school although I did take a few years off to go to school.