

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

LOIS PENDLETON TODD (1894 – 1968)

Dr. Lois Pendleton Todd, 74, a physician with the Stanford University Health Service for more than 22 years prior to her retirement in 1960, died November 11, 1968.

Lois Pendleton, one of five children, was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1894. Later that year her family moved to Saratoga, California. Graduating from Campbell High School, she entered the University of California Medical School at Berkeley from which she earned her M.D. degree in 1920. After serving as an intern with the San Francisco City and County Hospital, she traveled to China, sponsored by the American Board of Missions. There she was in charge of a small hospital for women and children in Tehchou, Shangtung, China, for five years. She then went on to Peking where she met Oliver J. Todd, an army engineer to whom she was married in 1927.

Four children were born to the Todds while they were in China but even so Dr. Todd found time to serve as school physician at the Peking-American School in Peking, China, from 1928 to 1938.

The family moved to Palo Alto in 1938, at which time Dr. Todd became associated with the Women's Health Service at Stanford as Assistant Professor and Assistant Director under Helen Brenton Pryor, M.D., who had previously known her as a medical student and visited her in Tehchou, China. She continued in this position under George H. Houck, M.D., Director of Stanford Health Service, until retirement in 1960.

The following quotations are indications of the respect and high regard in which she was held by her colleagues and friends:

"Lois Todd will always be remembered as a kind, sincere friend who was always willing to give of her time and herself most unselfishly."

"In her relationship to people, whether as doctor, colleague, or friend, she showed unflinching warmth. Her interest was genuine, her sympathy true. Above all, she gave of herself."

"Dr. Lois Todd was a physician who considered the students as human beings who needed information about their illnesses. She knew that dispensing medication only is not enough."

"Always a most interested and sympathetic listener."

"Gave wise counsel and 'motherly care' to both men and women students which carried them through many a difficult academic depression."

"Dr. Todd treated her friends and patients as human beings with deep regard and respect, giving sympathy when needed and bolstering confidence when needed."

"There are those who serve their professions and those who deeply care for individuals as human beings, giving aid and strength to those weak in health ... Lois Todd gave both."

"She was highly respected by colleagues of her profession as well as those in academic circles and by those people of the Stanford-Palo Alto community who just 'needed a friend.'"

Lois Todd was more than just a medical advisor for she deeply cared about the people she met, whether they were private patients, colleagues or students. Foreign students, especially, found in her a sympathetic counselor. She invited many into her home where they were treated as members of the family.

She was for two years (1956-1958) the convener of the informal academic group known as the "Women of the Faculty" (those women members of the Academic Council holding the rank of Assistant Professor or higher), and she continued attendance at their luncheon meetings after retirement, even after she had suffered a partial physical disability.

Her pleasure over the academic accomplishments of colleagues among the Women of the Faculty was unfeigned and evident, with no touch of envy. It was characteristic of her that when her own time for advancement to emeritus rank came in 1960, she managed it so quietly that a year had passed before her friends became aware of it.

Dr. Todd was a life member of the Stanford Faculty Club and an Honorary member of the Cap and Gown Society.

Upon retirement, she resumed private practice until 1966. She and her husband, Major Todd, traveled extensively, renewing old friendships and exploring new places. Her perspective was world-wide, as evidenced by her interest in foreign students, her travel, and active membership in the World Affairs Council.

While living on the peninsula she was an active member of the Palo Alto First Congregational Church. Her professional affiliations included the Santa Clara County Medical Association, the American Academy of General Practice and the American Medical Women's Association. She devoted much time and energy to her profession and contributed to these organizations unselfishly in many ways.

That her marriage was indeed a happy one was reflected in the fact that the two daughters chose to follow her into medicine and the two sons took up the father's profession of engineering.

Surviving are Major O. J. Todd, USA retired, her husband; daughters: Dr. Doris T. Brown, Belmont, California, Dr. Elinor T. Christiansen, Denver, Colorado; and sons: James P. Todd, Santa Ana, California, Hewlett F. Todd, Corning, California; a brother,

Morris B. Pendleton, San Marino, California; a sister, Dr. Adaline P. Satterthwaite, Karachi, Pakistan; and 15 grandchildren.

Dr. Todd was intelligent, kind, gentle and modest. In her quiet way she exemplified the best traditions of personal interest in her students that characterized the early years of Stanford University. An outstanding member of the Stanford Family and a superb physician.

Luell W. Guthrie, Chairman
Oliver E. Byrd
George H. Houck
A. Myra Keen