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The Legacy of Dorothea Meagher: A Story of a Remarkable Leader. Preliminary report.

Born to German immigrants, Dorothea's teaching career began at the age of 16. Assigned initially to teach Home Economics, she quickly informed the principal that she preferred mathematics to "cooking and sewing." As recorded by a university historian, "a lady of considerable importance to Central State University joined the staff in 1925." Indeed, Ms. Meagher was to chair the mathematics department and/or serve as the Dean of Women for the next forty-five years. This talk will examine the lasting and far-reaching impact this remarkable woman had on our institution and the community at large, not the least of which includes a current mathematics department where women comprise forty-five percent of the tenured/tenure-track faculty decades after Ms. Meagher's retirement. We will see that the description of her life as one of "service, dedication, and purpose" was most fitting. (Received September 16, 2014)