

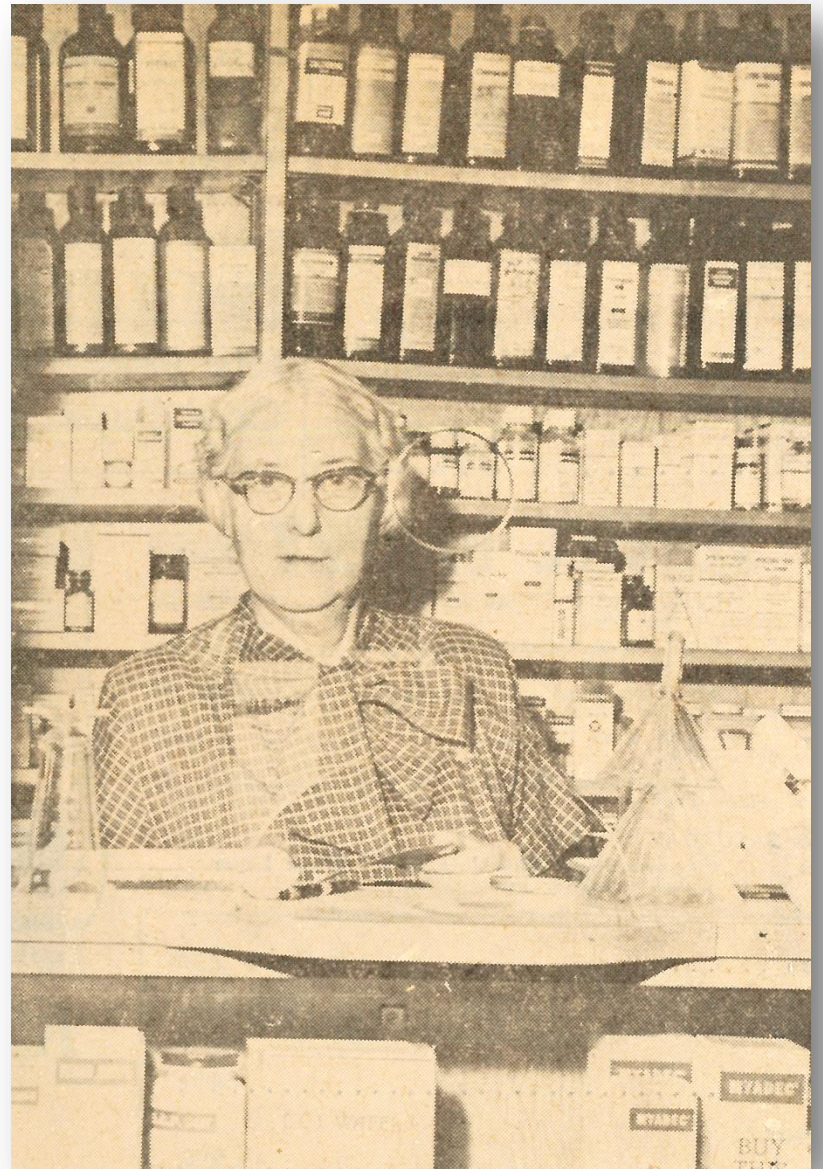
Ethel Bassett (1893 - 1963)



One of the friendliest people in Birmingham was a woman by the name of Ethel Bassett. She was your friendly neighborhood pharmacist.

In 1912, at the age of 19, Ethel began working at Shain's Drugstore as a temporary summer employee. Little did she know then, that she would work there for over fifty years!

Desiring to make a career out of it, Ethel attended the Sandusky School of Pharmacy. In 1919, she became the first registered woman pharmacist in Oakland County. This was at the time when few women worked outside the home, let alone received formal medical training.



***Ethel behind the counter at Shain's at Pierce and Maple
Birmingham Museum Collection***



***Ethel outside of Shain's Drugstore
Birmingham Museum Collection***

Ethel was an independent woman and never married. She was very career focused. She even was the co-owner of Shain's for 17 years.

Ethel certainly made an impact on the community, so much so that Mayor Florence Willett declared May 16, 1962 Ethel Bassett Day. This was to celebrate her 50 years at Shain's. The community came

together to show their appreciation for her service. One friend wrote, "you richly deserve all the praise and honor given you, not only in pharmacy, but for the happiness you have given to all people who know you."

Why I was inspired: My husband is a pharmacist and Ethel's story resonated with me because she shows how a pharmacist can have a very positive impact on their community.

--Submitted by Brittany Phalen