FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1967

KALAMAZOO, Mich. -- Dr. Frances Diebold, one of the best-known teachers at Kalamazoo College, will retire after 44 years of service, the longest tenure ever held by a Kalamazoo faculty member.

"Miss Dieb," as her students have called her since 1923, is a widely recognized biology teacher who headed Kalamazoo's biology department from 1934-66.

Soon after Dr. Diebold's appointment as chairman, the biology curriculum was expanded and laboratory techniques and procedures developed, bringing biology closer to the allied fields of chemistry and physics.

Under Prof. Diebold's guidance, a program of individualized study under the honors program was developed and undergraduate assistants have been used extensively in the laboratory program. Over the years, Miss Dieb's seminars have been popular and served as an effective departmental club for the majors. The number of majors has risen steadily from the late 1920's and the department has achieved a production of future scientists many times normal expectation for a liberal arts college.

Dr. Diebold joined the Kalamazoo College faculty in 1923 as an instructor in biology and became assistant professor in 1928,
associate professor in 1933, and professor in 1948.

She also has taught at Stevens Point (Wisc.) High School, 1921-23; was director of nature study at Eau Claire (Wisc.) State Teachers College, 1922-23; taught at Whitman College (Wash.) from 1927-28 on leave from Kalamazoo; and was professor of biology at Bay View (Mich.) Summer College in 1939.


Among the many honors accorded her were an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Ripon (Wisc.) College in 1959 and the "Woman of the Year for 1958" award from the Quota Club of Kalamazoo.

She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and is a member of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters; History of Science Society; American Genetic Association; American Association of University Professors; Phi Sigma and Pi Gamma Mu.

Dr. Diebold was born in Madison, Wisc., and received her B.A. degree in 1921 and M.A. degree in 1927 from University of Wisconsin.

(Diebold, biology, comm.)(L.1-3, Ed.1-3, SG.1)
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