

Woman Medical Expert Has Retired; Is Not Retiring

Sea Shells Have Replaced Microscope

By Margaret Koch

"She sells sea shells down by the sea shore...."

The old rhyme has a real-life counterpart in Dr. Alice G. Kalfus who does just that.

After 28 years of searching for deadly diseases world-wide, Dr. Kalfus today searches for shells along local beaches and enjoys every minute of it.

"Never did anything like this before in my life," declared the former pathologist, bacteriologist and parasitologist.

Santa Cruz was just another point on the map and sea shells were something she was too busy to look at until last April when she and her husband came here to live.

Since last August the retired doctor has operated a small business at 1701 Portola drive based on shells she picks up at Capitola, Seabright, La Selva and Aptos beaches.

"In a way, my 'House of Shells' shop is a misnomer," the white-haired woman said.

Instead of keeping large supplies of finished products on hand, she works "on order" making jewelry, planters, desk sets, place card holders, candle holders, snack trays and wall plaques which go to customers all over the country.

She even sells California shells to Florida residents—a neat bit of quiet propaganda on behalf of her "adopted" state.

Dr. Kalfus was born in Central City, Colo., where her father was a mining engineer. Early in life she developed a liking for scientific studies that was to lead her to a pre-medical education at Alma college, St. Thomas, Ont., Canada.

When her family settled in Washington, D.C., Alice Kalfus entered George Washington University to major in obstetrics and pediatrics.

"Women and medical educations were considered incompatible in those days," she said.

She entered the required anatomy class as the only girl in a group of 73 men under the direction of an extremely antagonistic and anti-feminine professor.

For three years she attended his class in fear and trembling until the day came when she felt she could stand his persecution no longer.

"For the first time in my life



Dr. Alice G. Kalfus, retired from the world of medical research where she spent hours looking through high-powered

microscopes, today looks for sea shells along local beaches. The tiny ones are polished and sometimes set with jewels to create attractive costume jewel-

ry. Larger shells are used for planters and snack-trays such as the one Dr. Kalfus is displaying here.

I didn't know what to do. I was alone—my family had moved back to Colorado," she recalled.

In desperation she told her troubles to an old family friend, Bishop Johnson — formerly of Denver's Episcopal church. He listened—then he gave her a real scolding—the kind she was badly in need of, she realized afterward.

From the bishop's office she went straight to the anatomy class room.

"I looked that professor right in the eye and I said: I am a medical student; I am attending this university and I intend to graduate as a doctor regardless of your personal opinion."

Sparks still fly from Dr. Kalfus' eyes today when she tells the story.

She graduated and received her degree but she says she also found that obstetrics and pediatrics weren't for her.

"Medical research fascinated me—I couldn't leave it alone," is the way she puts it.

And following the death of her first husband, a Denver newspaperman, she began doing medical research for the World Health foundation.

Starting in Pekin, China, in 1932, most of the countries of

the world became her laboratories where she helped wage war on tropical fevers, bubonic plague, leprosy and typhus, to name a few.

"We worked in regular teams," she said, naming places like the Malay peninsula tin mine area where Welsh coal miners sent over from Britain "died like flies."

At Sumatra she worked in the world's largest leprosarium. In Germany she attended classes at the University of Berlin in 1936 and rubbed elbows with a friendly populace. She went back in 1938 to find one of the Berlin professors in a concentration camp and the air filled with hatred and Hitler's voice.

In Canton, China, she learned to speak Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese but she recalls that "a person could go anywhere in China then, speaking pidgin English."

When war broke there she and her group of fellow researchers were politely escorted from the danger zone by the Chinese and flown out of the country on a British plane.

During her busy career Dr. Kalfus has researched brucellosis at the University of California at Berkeley; she has worked at Cedars of Lebanon hospital, Los Angeles, and at Richmond Medical center in addition to many widely-known eastern medical institutions.

Content to settle down today, Dr. Kalfus enjoys visits from her daughter and two granddaughters who live in the bay area. She also is a member of St. John the Bap-

tist Episcopal church of Capitola. Her shell shop helps support two projects close to her heart: the first is the Episcopal church girls' school at Baguio in the Philippine Islands; the second she is joined by three other doctors.

Dr. Kalfus is retired but not retiring — and in her opinions she still shows the spark and drive that put her through medical school.

"We help girl medical students," she said, emphasizing the word "girl" with a smile.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
No. 16,532

In the Superior Court of the State of California, in and for the County of Santa Cruz.

In the Matter of the Estate of RUTH L. KIRK, Deceased.

Notice Is Hereby Given by the Undersigned, B. B. SNYDER, JR., Executor of the estate of Ruth L. Kirk deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said deceased, or said estate, to file them, with the necessary vouchers in the office of the Clerk of the above named Court (which said office is situate in the Court House in the City of Santa Cruz in said County and State), within six months after the first publication of this notice made on the 17th day of January 1960, or present and exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, within said period, to the said Executor at the office of B. B. Snyder, Jr., Suite 6, Medico-Dental Building in the City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, State of California, which said last named office, the undersigned selects as the place of business in all matters connected with said estate.

B. B. SNYDER, JR.,
Executor of the Estate of
said deceased.

Dated January 15, 1960
B. B. SNYDER, JR.,
Attorney for said Executor
Jan. 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7 (2317)

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Kenneth And Bea Ferguson Buy Bissell Mortuary

Kenneth and Bea Ferguson have announced their purchase of business interests of the Bissell mortuary at 212 Laurel