

Midwife assisted in delivery of many Gothenburg residents

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Lois Atkinson has nothing but nice things to say about a local midwife who helped deliver two of her seven children.

“She was like a mother to us all,” said 96-year-old Atkinson about Edith Booth. “She was soothing.”

According to articles in The Times centennial issue and the Gothenburg Area History book, Edith Booth helped deliver and care for about 200 babies.

Two hospitals—one above a pharmacy and the other on the southwest corner of 14th Street and Lake Avenue—were in operation when Booth moved to town from Pine Bluffs, WY, in 1921 but she only provided part-time maternity care as she cared for six of her own children.

However at the urging of the doctors in town, Booth became licensed and established a maternity care facility in her home at 1703 Ave. B in 1942.

“It wasn’t a very big house,” Atkinson said.

Atkinson remembers the facility where she delivered the first boy and stayed in the home for a few days.

She also recalls the home diagonally across the street, at 1620 Ave. B, where the family moved five years later after it was built by Charles Booth, Edith’s husband, who was a carpenter.

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The midwife, who has been with the city since 1911, has assisted in the delivery of many children in the city. She has been a midwife for over 50 years and has been a member of the Midwives' Association since 1911. She has been a midwife for over 50 years and has been a member of the Midwives' Association since 1911.