

# Woman practically raised in jewelry store

By MARYLOU OLSON  
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"I was practically raised in my parents' jewelry store," said Vicky Ray, who is being honored this year as one of Oberlin's Working Women.

Her parents, Miles and Ila Ray, moved to Oberlin from Brush, Colo., and opened their store on the west side of Main Street in 1952. Her father went to watchmaking school in Denver and Vicky said she was born there.

Later, the couple moved the business to the former Farmers National Bank location at 176 S. Penn, and the Rays have served the community for 55 years.

Miss Ray graduated from Decatur Community High in 1968, then enrolled at Fort Hays State College. She received a degree in home economics in 1972, then spent several years working for the Kansas State University Extension Service in Hill City.

She later returned to Oberlin to help her parents in the store. Since the death of her father five years ago, she and her mother have kept the business going.

They sell all types of jewelry, including watches, clocks, earrings, rings, baby gifts, crystal and much more.

"At one time, pottery, china and silverware were big items," she said, "but since interests have changed, we mainly provide crystal selections."

She said she does some repair on various items, including watch bands; installs batteries; and cleans and checks rings, along with her other work in the store. She also does most of the ordering.

About 10 years ago, Miss Ray became a member of the Decatur County Amusement Authority, which runs the home-owned carnival, and has since helped Dana Marintzer at the toy van during the county fair in August. She has spent countless hours lining up volunteers to help with the games and rides during the fair. Though she is still a member the authority, she said she is stepping down from that job this year, but will continue to help at the toy van. Among her other interests are domino games with friends, who meet weekly at Faith Lutheran Church. Miss Ray said she is a member of a dart league and enjoys playing in card tournaments. She said she and a friend, Jacque Boultinghouse of Selden, have lots of fun playing in a card tournament held monthly at Rexford. She has also joined others who enjoy walking the new trails at Sappa Park.



VICKY RAY manages Ray Jewelry store in downtown Oberlin, with the help of her mother, Ila Ray.  
— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis



Amber Mason, Sharon Addleman, Pat Fringer and Sarah Marcuson.



The working women at First National Bank in Oberlin.  
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