**Anna Jane Harrison**
91st President of the ACS
1st Women President of the ACS

Born: December 23rd, 1912, Benton City, MO
Died: August 8th, 1998, Holyoke, MA

**Early Life**:

Harrison was born into a farming family in Missouri. Her scientific interest began early in elementary school when she had to learn about Caterpillars. Naturally when she asked her father what a caterpillar was, he told her about the Caterpillar tractor which was revolutionizing the farming community at the time.

Sadly, Harrison's father would pass away when she was only 7 years old. This was one of the first moments Harrison was exposed to an exceptional woman, her mother. Harrison's mother took responsibility for the family farm and kept it up and running for the next 40 years until her death.

**High School**:

Fast forward several years to Harrison's high school career and just as many famous scientists before her, the role of mentors is key. Harrison's high school science teacher would be the spark to light her journey into the world of chemistry.

**College degrees**:

Upon high school graduation, Harrison would attend the University of Missouri and double major in Chemistry and Education. She would graduate from Missouri and go on to teach at in the 1 room schoolhouse in her home county of Audrain Missouri. After some time, Harrison would return to the University of Missouri and pursue a master's degree in chemistry and then eventually in 1940 she would earn a PhD in Physical Chemistry. During her time in her PhD Harrison was interested in looking at sodium ketyls.

**Post Doctorate**:

Upon completion of her PhD Harrison would become a chemistry instructor at Tulane University. While at Tulane she would receive research funding from the National Defense Research Council as well as Corning Glass Works. In 1945 Harrison would move to the Mount Holyoke College and work for Dr. Emma Perry Carr.

**Life of Education**:

In addition to her research Harrison was known most for her dedication to education. She was passionate about making science more attainable and understandable to the average everyday non-scientist.

**Sources where this information was taken from:**

Sciencehistory.org and Britannica.com