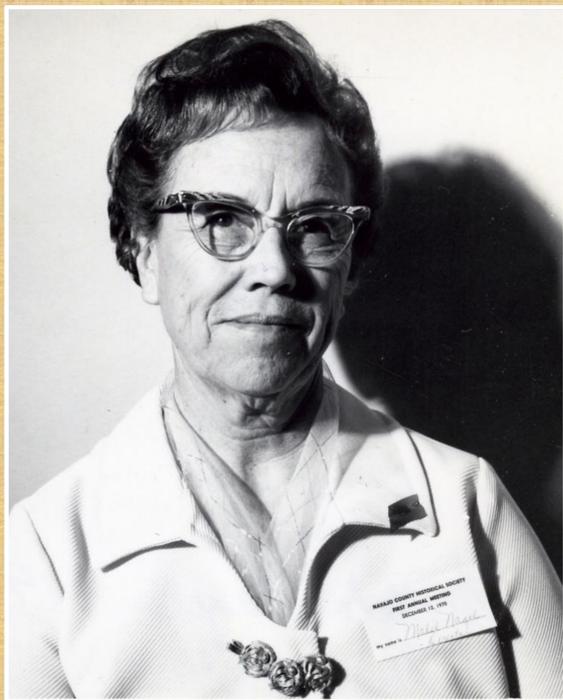


## WOMEN OF WINSLOW



### Mabel Hudspeth Nagel

(born 1903, died 1993)

*"I thought about it, and I've never been one to think there was anything I couldn't do, so I started in."*

Mabel upon being asked to serve as Winslow's Police Commissioner.

**Mabel Nagel was an experienced businesswoman who also served as Winslow's first female city council member, vice-mayor, and police commissioner.**

Mabel Jane Hudspeth was born July 7, 1903, in Berryville, Arkansas, into a sawmill family. She attended New Mexico State College and studied journalism and psychology while working for the *El Paso Times*.

Mabel married George Henry Nagel in 1931 and they had two children, Georgia and James. They moved to Oklahoma in 1933 and ran a sawmill. They ran lumber and real estate businesses in Texas, but they longed to return to sawmilling. They moved to Winslow in 1942 and opened the Nagel Lumber and Timber Company, which operated the town's first sawmill.

In 1950, George became disabled and Mabel took over business operations. She oversaw profitable times as well as challenging periods that included forest and mill fires, a labor strike, and the loss of a large contract due to a court case. The company operated until 1965 and employed 150 people at its peak.

Despite her personal and professional responsibilities, Mabel became extremely active in local and regional civic affairs. She was Winslow's first female vice-mayor from 1950 to 1952 and, as such, represented the Winslow Airport Commission to the Civil Aeronautics Board in Washington, D.C. She also served as Winslow's first female police commissioner from 1953 to 1954, setting up a rookie training program and junior police program for high school boys.

Some of Mabel's other offices included Winslow City Council (1950-1954), Navajo County Planning and Zoning Commission (1954-1956; Chairman), Winslow Youth Council (1955; President), Winslow Community Development Commission (1957), and Winslow Memorial Hospital Advisory Commission (1957-1959). She was also active in the Winslow Arts Association (charter member), Winslow Enrichment Commission, and the Navajo County Historical Society.



Mabel was involved in many professional and service organizations as well, including the Arizona and National Press Women's Associations, Soroptimist International, Winslow Business and Professional Women's Club (President 1955), Winslow Women's Club, and Winslow Writers' Club. Her professional interests led to service on the Arizona Water Resources Board and the Sitgreaves National Forest Advisory Council.

Mabel was named Business Woman of the Year by the Winslow Business and Professional Women's Club in 1959. She also received the Certificate of Merit from Governor Terry Goddard in 1966 for her service on the State Council of Arts and Humanities, and she was appointed by Governor Jack Williams in 1967 to the Arizona Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Mabel was listed in *Who's Who of American Women* and the *American Biographical Encyclopedia*.

Mabel died in Phoenix on September 10, 1993, at the age of 90, and was buried at the Desert View Cemetery in Winslow.



Top: Mabel at the first annual meeting of the Navajo County Historical Society in 1970

Middle: Mabel and George Nagel

Bottom: Mabel with other City of Winslow officials in the 1950s