



# Emma Abbott Ridgway

## Quick Facts

- Birth:** July 21, 1903  
Seattle, Washington
- Death:** May 1, 1981  
Sedro-Woolley, Washington
- Occupation:** Theater Owner/Manager
- Party Affiliation:** Democrat
- Years served:** 1945-1947, 1949-57
- Office:** Representative
- District:** 40 (San Juan, Skagit Counties)

## Personal:

- Owner of the Dream Movie Theater in Sedro Woolley, which was started by her brother and then taken over by her father.
- Married Dr. Ralph Ridgway in 1926, 1 son

## Education:

- Washington State College, B.A.
- Columbia University, .M.A.

## Community Service:

## Affiliations:

- Alpha Chi Omega, music society
- American Legion Auxiliary
- P.E.O Sisterhood
- Phi Kappa Phi, honor society
- Pi Lambda Theta, honor society and professional association in education
- Sedro-Woolley Soroptimist Club

## Awards:

## Legislative & State Service:

- Lost to Ralph L. Rickdall in the 1957 election for representative

## Committees:

(1945) Educational Institutions, chair; Education; Horticulture; Medicine, Dentistry, Pure Food and Drugs; Revenue and Taxation

(1949) College and Universities; Education and Libraries; Roads and Bridges; Rules and Order  
(1951) College and universities; Education and Libraries; Horticulture; Roads and Bridges; Rules and Order  
(1953) Agriculture and Livestock; Colleges and universities; Horticulture; Roads and Bridges  
(1955) Agriculture and Livestock; Education; Fisheries; Highways; Rules and Order

**House Bills sponsored:**

**(1945 session)**

33-An Act relating to elections, providing for straight party voting and method of canvassing same, and repealing all acts or parts of acts in conflict herewith

Went to third reading

115-Washington State Teachers Retirement Act

Vetoed by Governor Wallgren

**(1949 session)**

67-Relating to student-teacher training, prime sponsor

Signed by Governor Langlie

266-Relating to highways, prime sponsor

Went to third reading

302-Relating to commercial feeding stuffs, prime sponsor

Signed by Governor Langlie

449-Relating to assessments against state lands, prime sponsor

Vetoed by Governor Langlie

**(1951 session)**

160-Withdrawing certain tide lands from sale or lease

Signed by Governor Langlie

331-Increasing voluntary firemen's relief and pension, prime sponsor

Signed by Governor Langlie

380-Authorizing sale of certain state lands in Skagit County, prime sponsor

Signed by Governor Langlie

**(1953 session)**

84-Relating to brand names and composition of fertilizers

Signed by Governor Langlie

239-Authorizing highway commission to exchange lands not needed for highway purposes

Signed by Governor Langlie

249-Relating to secondary state highways affected by relocation of primary highways

Signed by Governor Langlie

**(1955 session)**

30-Creating a new superior court of Skagit and Island Counties with two judges, prime sponsor

Signed by Governor Langlie

111-Authorizing diking districts to sell unneeded property

Signed by Governor Langlie

153-Prohibiting autos from crossing parallel white lines on certain highways, primer sponsor

Signed by Governor Langlie

425-Establishing the state board for volunteer firemen to administer the volunteer firemen's relief fund

Signed by Governor Langlie

449-Amending the firemen's relief and pension act, prime sponsor

Went to second reading

464-Establishing a state merit system of personnel administration

Went to first reading

701-Establishing the state personnel board

Went to first reading

**House Joint Resolutions sponsored:**

**(1953 extraordinary session)**

4-Providing for 120 day odd year and 30 day even year legislative sessions

Went to first reading

**Leadership, Positions & Appointments:**

- Vice-Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, 1936-1946
- Manager of the Washington State Building at the New York World's Fair, 1939

- Delegate to the Democratic National Convention, 1944, 1948
- Appointed assistant administrator by Governor Rosellini in 1957 in the professional division of the State Licenses Department
- Assistant State Director of Licenses, 1964-1972
- State Chairman of the Democratic Women's Division, n.d.

**Sources:**

Articles:

- "Republicans Win All County Offices, County GOP Victory Biggest Since 1930," *The Courier-Times*, November 7, 1946
- "Emma Ridgway Loses; Sharpe Wins by 5 Votes," *The Courier-Times*, November 15, 1956
- "State Aide Quits over G.O.P. Policy," *Seattle Times*, August 23, 1965
- "Obituaries, Emma Abbott Ridgway," *Sedro-Woolley Courier-Times*, May 6, 1981

Web:

- Bourasaw, Noel V., "Dream Theatre, Abbott Motor Co., Dad Abbott family, Emma and Hugh Ridgway," *Skagit River Journal*, 2004  
<http://www.stumpranchonline.com/skagitjournal/S-W/Gen/DreamAbbott1.html>