



Ada Melonuk

November 26, 1915 - March 29, 2009

ADA MARY MELONUK , 93, died peacefully in her sleep at her home in Ft. Laramie on Sunday, March 29, 2009. Her funeral services will be held at 11:00am on Friday, April 3, 2009 at the Presbyterian Church in Ft. Laramie, Wyoming. Burial, with Order of Eastern Star Rites, will follow in the Ft. Laramie Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 2 from 3pm to 7pm at the Colyer Funeral Home in Torrington; and the casket will be open at the church service. Those who wish may direct memorial contributions in Ada's honor to the Ft. Laramie Presbyterian Church Education Fund. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Colyer Funeral Home and friends are invited to send condolences to the family at www.colyerfuneralhome.com Ada Mary was born on November 26, 1915 in Wheatland, Wyoming the daughter of Charles Mead and Ada (Guy) Sandercock. She then spent the first one and a half years of her young life at "The Fort" as her grandparents, Thomas B. and Harriet Sandercock lived at Fort Laramie when it was a military fort. When the Fort was decommissioned, Ada Mary's grandmother purchased a house there and continued to live at the Fort. Ada Mary and her parents lived there as well while their ranch home was being built. Ada Mary attended school in Ft. Laramie; graduating in 1934 as Valedictorian. She went on to receive her B.A. from Park College in Parkville, Missouri in 1939. After graduation, she returned to Wyoming and began her teaching career in Lingle, Wyoming. She also taught in Ft. Laramie, Guernsey, Gillette, Moorcroft, and Huntley, Wyoming. Many students benefitted from Ada Mary's passion for

music. She married Mike Melonuk in Ft. Laramie in May of 1940 and the couple moved to Guernsey where Mike was teaching. They worked together as teachers in Wyoming for the next 35 years. They were teaching at Huntley when Mike died in 1975. Ada Mary continued to teach until 1985 when she retired at the age of 70. Ada Mary enjoyed stamp collecting and she loved to cross stitch. She was very active in the Presbyterian Church; where she served on various Presbytery committees and as Moderator of the Presbytery of Wyoming. She served as church organist and choir director for 25 years. Ada Mary was dedicated to Wyoming Job's Daughters and Wyoming Order of Eastern Star; serving as Wyoming Grand Guardian of Jobs and Worthy Grand Matron of Eastern Star. She is survived by her son, Robert (Beth) Melonuk of Ft. Laramie, Wyoming; two daughters, Evelyn (Jack) Cecil of Huntley, Wyoming, and Carol (Craig) Cooper of Riverton, Wyoming; six grandchildren: Wendy Cecil, Jennifer Kaufman, Jackie Cecil, Chris Cooper, Geoff Cooper, and Cathy Cooper; six great grandchildren: Tyler Loose, Madison and Haylee Kaufman, and Elizabeth, Tommy, and Cassidy Cooper; a sister, Edythe McNown of Fairview, Kansas; sister-in-law, Lois Sandercock of Worland, Wyoming; and a brother-in-law, Robert Laird of Oregon. In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Florence Laird and Ruth Howarth, and three brothers, Charles, Guy, and Russell Sandercock.

Tribute Wall

KD

“*Ms. Melonuk was involved in Job's Daughters when I was in during the mid to late 1970's. She was such a quiet but meaningful presence at the meetings. I so admired her grace and personality. I wanted to have her same poise and understanding. I have tried my whole life. I believe I am richer indeed for having known her. We will pray for you.*

Kim (Edwards) DesEnfants - March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

VP

“*Evelyn and the Melonuk family, It has been a long time since our visits in Newcastle, but I remember those times very well. I want to extend my sympathy in the loss of your mother. She and I shared many times in Eastern Star and she never failed to send a card on my birthday or at Christmas. Her loss will be felt by a host of friends and all of her family; she was a very giving and caring lady. Sincerely, Virginia Porter*

Virginia Porter - March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GP

“*Mrs. Melonuk was probably the most influential teacher that I ever had. She gave me such a love of music that still carries thru to this day, over 50 years later. I remember her patiently teaching us all to read music in third grade. Everytime I took my children back to Lingle and Old Ft. Laramie, I told them the story of her and the Sandercock family. She was a gift to all of us. My prayers are with you all during this sad time but I know she is letting the music flow in heaven.*

Glenda (Hoover) Pals-Williamson - March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ Robert, Evelyn and Carol,

I am so sorry about the loss of your mother. Thinking back I knew her for over 50 years and every conversation we had was laced with words of wisdom and always, always some humor. When I worked at the Fort I loved it when she would come and visit. She lived a rich and full life, always teaching me something new!

Evie, I am especially feeling a lump in my throat for you. You will miss your Mom just as I still miss mine. You and I need to get together and share some Mother stories.

See you on Friday if not before!

Love you guys!

Pat

Pat Fullmer - March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Sympathy to Ada Mary's family for an "old" Job's Daughter friend. I am a Past Grand Guardian of Nebraska but being from the panhandle I saw Ada Mary often at OES and Job's events. I wasn't a close friend but did enjoy my contacts with her. She had a wonderful full life.

Betty, PGG Nebraska

Betty Kenyon - March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ I am so overwhelmed with sadness in my heart with Aunt Marie's passing. I am even more saddened that I am unable to attend the services that as family, I know that I should attend. However, I am currently in class and will be teaching class on Friday in Rock Springs. Robert, Evelyn and Carol, I know we have not been able to stay much in touch and I know that we should but I do want you to know that my heart is always been with family and I will be thinking of you all. Take heart in the fact that I truly believe that she will be in a better place and back with her "soulmate" after a long wait. I will always cherish the time that I spent on the Ranch in my youth. Please forgive me for my absence and my God Bless You All.

Rusty Sandercock - March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ SHE WAS AN INSPIRATION TO ME TO CONTINUE IN MUSIC--
SHE WAS A GREAT LADY.
I SEND MY LOVE TO ALL,
MARGARET BROWN

margaret brown - March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ I can remember the first time I met Ada Mary back in 1935. My Dad, Mother, brother & I drove out from Chicago. Life at the ranch was so different from life in Chicago, but it was fun for me. In 2002 our whole family visited Ada Mary & it was such a fun time. She was so sweet, & will always live in our hearts.

Don & Claudette Guy - March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

C(

“ Hello Carol,
My sympathy to you and your entire family on the loss of your mother. I have very wonderful memories of your mother - mostly surrounding music, of course :-)! Of her quiet but strong support of her students in their endeavors to learn music. And I remember our school days with fondness as well. I pray that your good memories bring you great joy and that God blesses with comfort and peace.
Connie

Connie Ziller (Stratman) - March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Bob and Beth; I just wanted to tell you how much I loved your Mom. She was such a really neat lady, and I got to know her well as we "did funerals" for many years. She was a treasure and I was privileged to know her. I know you will miss her. My sympathy. Jo Butler

March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ We visited "Maid Marian" as my children affectionately called her many years ago at her home in Ft. Laramie. She gave us a wonderful tour of the fort. She also had a heart-to-heart talk with my eldest son about the responsibility and pleasures of being the eldest of many siblings. We all wish we could have visited with her more often.

Julie Guy Riley - March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ My husband was the pastor at Ft. Laramie Community Church for 5 years. Ada Mary was one of the parishioners during that time. We dearly loved her. She had had a lot of varied experiences and shared a lot of them with us. She had a passion for teaching and wonderful love of music. She had determination and humor. She had a real love of Ft. Laramie and the church there. We enjoyed hearing about her family and experiences. We will miss Ada Mary. She was a dear friend.

Bob and Carolyn Frye - March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Ada Mary was my landlord for a few years in Ft. Laramie when I was employed there as a police officer. She was always such a kind soul and gave us a discount on our rent to help us out. I'm sorry to hear of her passing but she's in a better place now and can get the rest she deserves, or maybe she'll still be driving around that sports luxury car and just having fun. My sympathies to family and friends.

- David Shawstad

David Shawstad - March 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM