

OBITUARIES

Mary Ann Votapka

July 8, 1928 - Feb. 16, 2013

Mary Ann Votapka, Jennings, died on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013 at Cedar Living Center in Oberlin at 84 years of age.

The daughter of Otto and Gladys (Huff) Johnson, Mary was born on July 8, 1928 in Norton and was raised on a farm near Kanona. She attended the Kanona and Jennings schools and graduated from Jennings High School in 1946.

Mary married George O. Votapka on Aug. 10, 1947 at her parents farm home near Kanona. Mary and George lived on the Votapka farm four miles north of Jennings. She was a homemaker and a member of the Jennings United Methodist Church, the Jennings American Legion Auxiliary, Sunflower Quilters, and Al-Anon.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Otto and Gladys Johnson; husband, George Votapka; granddaughter, Krystal Hallagin.

Mary is survived by her son, Thomas Votapka and friend Terri Hanke of Jennings; three daugh-

ters, Sue Long of Jennings, Ann (Rex) Rowh of Cimarron, and Jean Lee (Rollie) Hallagin of Goodland; sisters, Ethel Taylor of Hays and Elaine (Myron) McKinley of Tulsa, Okla.; seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be held at Jennings United Methodist Church on Saturday, Feb. 23 at 10 a.m., with Reverend Barbara Patterson officiating. Burial will follow at Jennings Cemetery.

Visitation will be on Friday at the funeral home in Oberlin and Saturday from 8 a.m. until service time at the church.

Memorial contributions can be made to Jennings United Methodist Church or Cedar Living Center in Oberlin.

Condolences may be sent to www.paulsfh.com.

Arrangements are by Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin.

Ducks, applause and Mr. Moon

"Maybe we'd better park around the corner," LeRoy said, after we finally located the street address and pulled up in front of an elegant house. "No," I told him, "this must be it. There's Roy and Betsy's car and a New Mexico tag on that funny-shaped black car." "Yeah," he replied, "that's a BMW, Liza, and Roy's Lexus and I expect the Lincoln with Texas plates is Mark's wheels. It's the right house, all right, but I'm parking our Ford down the block a bit." "Oh," I said, finally understanding.

We'd always been a bit out of our league in the "diamonds and domestic help" crowd and I never felt it more than when we walked up the curving drive before us. Darlene came running out to meet us, calling back into the house, "Hey guys, Kansas has arrived!" We were gathering in Oklahoma with a group of old friends for a reunion but when Buck invited us we were under the impression we were going to their cattle ranch.

Over dinner, Darlene explained, "Well, we were going to grill at the ranch but we've had such a wet spring it's just too muddy out there, so we settled for introducing you to our beef on a plate instead of on the hoof." Our plates were loaded with prime rib, thick, juicy cuts, obviously grain fed Oklahoma beef. It was some grand introduction!

Wine flowed, conversation flowed, story followed story as we adjourned to the patio for coffee and dessert. White

Pieces of life's puzzle

Liza Deines



magnolia blossoms the size of dinner plates perfumed the dusky moonlight. I'd never seen a magnolia tree before and was surprised when Polly exclaimed, "Oh! I carried magnolias in my wedding bouquet." Darlene promptly plucked one from a low branch of the enormous tree and gave it to her. As we drank in its fragrance, Mark told us their love story. We all knew Polly and Mark were recently wed, the second marriage for each.

"That's a bouquet I thought I'd never see," he teased Polly, giving her a gentle punch on the arm as he leant close for a whiff of sweet scent. "You guys think I'm kidding? I never fought a tougher battle than winning Polly. She may look like a cream puff, but don't be deceived..."

"I was never, ever going to have anything to do with any man, ever, ever again," Polly interrupted. "Working in an oil field office with a constant stream of no-good, worthless, fly-by-night roughnecks just like my shiftless dad and my faithless first husband, I'd become a tough-as-nails, trailer-trash Texas gal and I could turn guys out to pasture with one look."

"She'd never run into a New Jersey truck gardener before."

Mark said. "I didn't know what a pasture was. I'd been trucking strawberries and eggs out of Jersey for years. My first wife hated being a "trucker widow" and walked out long ago. Lost the transmission down on the gulf coast and was trying to come up with cash for repairs, so I was working the oil rigs. The first time my eyes fell on Polly I knew she was the kind of girl for me, but it took me years to convince her. Eventually, I moved up in the oil industry," Mark said, "and became a transplanted Texan. I simply couldn't leave Polly."

"He was so different from the guys I knew," Polly said, "a real gentleman. He kept coming around and calling. I kept waiting for him to let me down, dump me or disappoint me. He never did. My girls grew up urging me, 'For goodness' sake, Mom, marry the guy.' It took me so long to trust him and when at last we married, I couldn't believe how great it was. I still can't!" And she turned to Mark and gave him a whamdoozy of a kiss right in front of us and the dozing ducks on the lake.

I don't know what the ducks thought, but we all applauded while Mr. Moon slid shyly behind a cloud as Polly and Mark celebrated their too long-delayed romance.

Liza Deines
1098 NE Independence Ave. #230
Lee's Summit, MO 64086
childofthe40s@gmail.com
816-554-0398

Call Mike with all your social news.
877-3361

Water management meeting

On February 26 in McCook, Neb., Kugler Company will present four industry experts to discuss water management issues and their ever-emerging impact on growers.

Mike Peterson of Orthman Manufacturing in Lexington, Neb., will discuss Root Structure and Development. Dave Lankford from Earthtec Solutions in Vineland, N.J. will cover Water Management on the High

Plains. Kugler Company's Jae Fielding, Rapid City, S.D., will go into Foliar Fertilizer Application and Nutrient Breakdown. Don Day of DayWeather Inc. in Cheyenne, Wyo., will explain Weather Patterns, both current and future.

This event is free but seating is limited. For more information and to make a reservation, log on to www.kuglercompany.com/water.

National Weather Service plans storm spotting class in Norton

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Goodland and Norton County Emergency Management will be holding a Storm Spotter Class in Norton. This year's training will be held Monday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Prairie Land Electric Co-op downstairs (1101 W. Highway 36).

The class is free of charge and open to anyone with an interest in High Plains weather. This program is conducted only once a year by NWS meteorologists so consider attending this fun and educational training in Norton. The class will discuss Wireless Emergency Alerts, new Impact-Based Warnings, thunderstorm organization and evolution, associated clouds and their meaning, thunderstorm hazards, safety, and what and how to report. For more information, contact the Goodland

NWS at (785) 899-7119. A complete listing of the 2013 Spotter Training Schedule across the Tri-State Area is available on the Goodland NWS web page: weather.gov/goodland.

Mrs. Northwest Kansas



Mrs. Northwest Kansas, Lori Shields, Norton, held her pose as Amanda Sowers, Oberlin, made a small adjustment. Mrs. Sowers, owner of Amanda Sowers Photography, took all of Mrs. Shields' publicity photos and created the sponsorship page for the Mrs. Kansas Pageant brochure.

—Herald staff photo by Carolyn Plotts

LYLE NEWS

I always enjoy reading the flashbacks in the Norcraft news, especially when they have news of Lyle people I knew. I would like to add a little to a previous paper. Margaret and Carl Magers were blessed with a baby daughter, Jane, born in the old Brewster Hospital in Oberlin on March 6, 1944; and Archie and Hazel Van Gundy also, with my little sister, Sheryl, born March 9. My mother had made trips to Oberlin and back on the old "Poliwog", the little passenger train. My Dad was afraid she would be at home with no Doctor, so she stayed a week or two in a home across from the hospital in case of a storm.

Kathy Van Meter and Lloyd Frandsen attended an appreciation supper with talks by Veterinarians at the Town Talk Restaurant in Cambridge, Neb. Wednesday found them at the Oxford Mulligan Restaurant with Furnas Co. Livestock feeders where they heard several speakers. On Sunday they were in Oberlin to help Helen Helm

celebrate her birthday.

Joyce Sumner, Toots Magers, Judy and Charley Easton rode to Helen Helm's party with Jane Englehardt where they visited and were entertained by Mike Milbauer and his one man band. Joyce went to Olathe the prior weekend, and Saturday, Jan. 26,

went to Arapahoe to see Chandler wrestle.

Gary Anthony visited with me on Saturday, and said Keith continues to improve.

Our family continues to pass colds around—one gets better and another gets worse. Hopefully, soon everyone will be ok.

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Bertha Martina Matchett
8-30-1930 – 69 Years Old – 12-23-2003

BABE

WE had 51 years, 2 months, 17 days
6:15 minutes of wonderful times
together . . . some good, some bad,
I am waiting for the Lord to
tell me my time on earth is up,
or over and he calls me home.

Bill Matchett, Sr.
2-10-27 – 86 Years Old – 2-10-13

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