



Marlene Ann McDonald

November 22, 1934 - August 25, 2014

Marlene Ann McDonald of Philomath peacefully passed away Aug. 25, 2014, in the comfort of her home.

Marlene was born Nov. 22, 1934, in Corvallis to Raymond and Mable (Blodgett) Smith. She grew up in the Corvallis area. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees at Oregon State University to pursue her passion of teaching.

Marlene dedicated her life to teaching and helping others. She spent many years teaching in the Philomath School District, in Alaskan logging camps, and for at-risk youth at the Corvallis Community Consortium, to mention only a few. She was an active member of Blodgett Community Church, where she regularly taught Sunday school, and was involved in many charity organizations around the world.

Marlene was highly active in the Benton County Historical Society and Museum, and spent many years researching local history and authoring numerous books.

Marlene was preceded in death by her husband, Martin; and her brother Bob Smith. She is survived by her three sons, Gregory, Houston and his wife, Angelika, and Thomas and his wife, Serena; brothers Richard Smith, Will

Smith and Bill Smith; stepbrother Charles Shaw; six grandchildren, Catherine, Darin, Angelina, Christina, Iain and Jennie; and five great-grandchildren.

Making people happy was her mission in life, and seeing former students always brought much joy to her. Marlene touched the lives of tens of thousands of people over the years, and will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A visitation is set for 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29, at McHenry Funeral Home. A graveside service will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 30, at Blodgett Cemetery, followed by a celebration of life at Blodgett Community Church. Memorial donations in Marlene's name can be directed to Blodgett Community Church, P.O. Box 62, Blodgett, OR 97326; or the Benton County Historical Society and Museum, P.O. Box 35, Philomath, OR 97370.

Tribute Wall

DP

“ *Marlene was a lady I only met in person just a very few times. A friend of mine was Marlene's lifelong friend and regaled me with stories of Marlene. In that way I got to know her, and thus I offer my condolences to her family. I am in awe of Marlene and her accomplishments.*

Dorothy Delina Porter - September 18, 2014 at 09:37 PM

JF

“ *Marlene was a great teacher and person. She had a wonderful smile with a glint of mischief. I remember her gentle teaching style - even with junior high boys. And her kindness up in Port Alice, AK. I'll miss her; the world is not quite as whole.
Greg, Hoot, Tommy - you had wonderful parents. Be so grateful!*

Jerry Flatz - September 01, 2014 at 12:39 PM

BB

“ *We have all lost a gem at Marlene's passing. I worked with her at Benton County Historical Museum as a docent. Only she knew more than most of us ever will about the history of Benton County. She told fascinating stories and made history come alive for young and old alike. She had a wonderful memory, and a keen mind. My condolences to her family. She will be greatly missed by all of us.*

Beverley Beckley

Beverley Beckley - August 29, 2014 at 04:43 PM

BR

“ HI again Tom, Hoot and Greg

When you share with me directions to Blodgett cemetery, please send to my e-mail box.

bcfox03@yahoo.com

I was very sad to hear about Aunt Mickey's death. Its a relief knowing she was prepared to meet the Lord at any time.

See you Sat.

Brenda Fox

Brenda - August 29, 2014 at 09:08 AM

BF

“ HI boys

I am trying to figure out how to get to gravesite, could you help with directions.

THanks,

Brenda Fox (Sherry's little sister)

Brenda Fox - August 29, 2014 at 08:35 AM

FA

Blodgett cemetery is the driveway just west of Davis Road on the south side of HWY20. It's just over 1 mile east of the Blodgett store.

Family - August 29, 2014 at 02:23 PM

RD

“ I had the pleasure of working weekly with Marlene at the historical society and found her a great wealth of knowledge but even more important was how her face would brighten when she'd talk about her teaching career, her students, the books that she wrote, her community and its people.

I recall fondly that I would learn that she was a book's author only when I commented on a great book I had come across, to which she'd say "Well, you know who wrote that, don't you?" Can't you just hear her say that in her slow, low voice and that fixed gaze?!

She will be missed by so many; the seat to my right will always seem so empty but the dedication with which she approached her work and the knowledge gained in those years will remain an inspiration to me.

A long-time member of the genealogical society as well, she helped pave the way for those of us who came later.

My condolences to her family, other friends, former students, fellow volunteers and her community at large.

Ron DeYoung

*Benton County Genealogical Society president, and
Benton County Historical Society, fellow coworker*

Ron DeYoung - August 28, 2014 at 03:39 PM

SE

“ So sorry to hear of Marlene's passing. She was always faithful to pray for me when I was serving God overseas, and kept me updated on the happenings in Blodgett. She had such a heart for people, and was always a great encouragement to me,.

Sarah Everest-Jindrich - August 28, 2014 at 02:11 PM

GC

“ *Moms are so special, memories will last forever, so sorry for your loss, it was a great privilege to have worked with her.* ”

Gary Cox - August 27, 2014 at 11:39 PM

SF

“ *Mrs. McDonald was a kindhearted, generous person, and a wonderful teacher. I remember her well from childhood. My deepest condolences to my classmate Houston, his brothers and family.* ”



Sharon Richards Fuller - August 27, 2014 at 10:59 PM



“ *Marlene was a terrific person and teacher! I enjoyed her as a teacher and colleague. RIP.* ”

Shirley Huyett

Shirley Huyett - August 27, 2014 at 10:58 PM