



Dorothy Willou Cooper

March 21, 1921 - July 13, 2010

Dorothy Willou Mitchener Cooper was born March 21, 1921 at the Okmulgee Hospital to Helen Grizzell Swain and Benton Belchet Mitchener. She was an only child but was surrounded by many cousins on her mother's side and had many happy times at her grandparents' home on south Seminole street where she and her mother lived after her father died. Her grandfather, Orlando Swain was a judge and former mayor of Okmulgee. She was very proud of his accomplishments with the Creek Indian Council House Museum. She met DeRuse Cooper when they were students at Okmulgee High School . Willou was a freshman and he was a senior. They continued their relationship after he graduated and enjoyed 69 years of marriage.

Willou attended Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha but had to drop out to help care for aging grandparents. She later enrolled in nursing school at St. John's Hospital in Tulsa, but left to marry DeRuse. They lived in Craig, Colorado for the first months of marriage. When WWII escalated, DeRuse enlisted and Willou and Margaret moved back to Okmulgee, and remained in Okmulgee the rest of her life, raising the four kids and caring for her mother, who lived with them for many years. In the late 50's she joined DeRuse at Jones Furniture as a decorator and buyer. All surrounding communities enjoyed the Christmas windows she designed.

Willou's life was heavily involved around her children's activities of scouts, sports and the First Methodist Church. She also enjoyed activities in the community such as PTA, PEO, Art & Literature, Sesame and playing bridge.

After her children left for college and married and had grandchildren, she and DeRuse traveled many miles attending their activities. They were very blessed to be able to travel) to many foreign countries and they continued their travels visiting family and longtime friends. All she ever wanted was a big loving family, good food and “the right clothes.”

She is survived by her children Margaret Newendorp of Moore, Ok, Dr. Ben Cooper of Lawton, Ok, Helen and Bill Nygard of Okmulgee, Ok and DeRuse Jr. and Penny Cooper of Broken Bow, Ok. His grandchildren Heather and Jon Scherer of Tulsa, Ok, Eric and Christina Newendorp of Tulsa, Ok, Billy and Kyme Nygard of The Colony, TX, Amy and Mike Jones of Golden, Co, Holly and Dr. Billy Likos of Columbia, Ms, Candace Collins of Guymon, Ok, Allison Cooper of Dallas, TX, Emily and Shebnem Cooper-Pura of Seattle, WA, Jessica Cooper of San Jose, Ca, De Cooper of Norman, Ok, Libby Cooper of Norman, Ok and 19 great-grandchildren. Her cousins; Margaret Swain Beesley and Ed Swain. She also had numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A Celebration of Willou’s life will be held 11:00 A.M. Saturday, July 17, 2010 at the First United Methodist Church of Okmulgee. Reverend Craig Denslow will officiate. There will be a Private Family Interment. Pallbearers will be Mike Hutchings, Jon Scherer, Billy Likos, Mike Jones, Steve Sigmon and Bill Martin. Visitation will be on Friday, 1-8 P.M. at the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home. The family wishes to thank Plantation House and Horizon Hospice for all the loving care given to Willou. Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church, 302 S. Seminole, Okmulgee, OK 74447, to help restore the Church Chimes; that she grew up listening to her whole life. Condolences may be made at mcclendon-winters.com.

Previous Events

Service

JUL 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Okmulgee
8th Street and Seminole
Okmulgee, OK

Tribute Wall



“ Dorothy Willou Cooper

December 20, 2022 at 11:29 AM



“ My prayers go out to Heather and her family. My son, Justin, cherished the many memories of Mr. & Mrs. Cooper at the Preston ballgames. Justin would watch for them to come in and make for sure that Mrs. Cooper made it safely up and down the bleachers. He will miss this joy. They were both very wonderful people and will be dearly missed.##imported-begin##Paula (Wade) Blair##imported-end##

July 21, 2010 at 09:37 AM



“ We are so sorry to hear of your loss. She was a very special woman and we were blessed to know her. I enjoyed being around the family the years I worked for Jones Furniture as a Floor covering technician. May God Bless you all with wonderful, precious memories, knowing she is in Heaven waiting on the rest of you. God Bless, Rodney and Kathy Pippin##imported-begin##Rodney and Kathy Pippin##imported-end##

July 20, 2010 at 02:03 PM



“ Willou was truly a gracious lady--gengerous, charming and a wicked sense of humor. She never took herself too seriously and always had a smile. Her legacy is a guide to us all. She was greatly loved.##imported-begin##Ann Dietert##imported-end##

July 17, 2010 at 08:17 AM



“ Dear Ben and Family, we are so sorry about your mom's passing. We read about her in the Lawton paper. What a wonderful life she lead. May God Bless you and your family during this time. You will see her again when you get to heaven. She has no more pain and has gained everything. She is smiling looking down upon you. Peace be with you during this time. We love you and appreciate you.

Charlie and Rheu Nell##imported-begin##charles r
horton##imported-end##

July 17, 2010 at 05:12 AM



“ Margaret, I was sorry to learn of your mom's death. She & your dad were such dear people.

When I married, I moved to Midwest City. Then when Ron & I both retired, we moved to Norman to be close to our daughter & her family. Her husband is a pilot with Southwest--not an 8:00 to 5:00 job. Now we're enjoying helping Julie out with their 2 sons.

Your mom's obituary stated that you live just up the road in Moore. I tried to find your phone number, but you must be unlisted. We're unlisted too as Ron taught school for 44 years. I would love to hear from you & find out if you're still singing. My phone nos. are 573-5909 & 761-4888(cell). We live at 4129 Eden Ct, Norman, OK 73072.

Margaret, if you attend the 1st UMC in Moore, Josh Phelps, a graduate student at OU that has participated with our choirs at McFarlin Memorial UMC here in Norman, was hired this summer to be the choir director Moore. He's a nice young man with quite a tenor voice!

You know, I always wanted to have a beautiful soprano voice like yours, but too many years of smoking ruined what little alto voice I had. I quit the habit 7 years ago & my ability to sing returned; however, it apparently lowered my range & I now have to sing tenor! Oh well, our choir director, Dr. Zielinski, puts up with me! Hope to hear from you. Susan###imported-begin##Susan (Pancoast) Springfield###imported-end##

July 16, 2010 at 06:18 PM



“ Dear Helen and family,
I grew up next door to Anna Mae and Estil Riley, so we knew the Coopers from the time we were very young. My mother, Maizie Foister, had all the Coopers in English classes at one time or another. We all admired your mother and your father, especially for their kindness to everyone. I am so sorry to hear of your mother's death, particularly so soon after your father's. I can think of no two kinder or gracious people.

Linda Foister##imported-begin##Linda Foister##imported-end##

July 15, 2010 at 03:55 PM



“ Willou and DeRuse were an exceptionally beautiful and gracious couple. I have many memories of friendly conversations - in the furniture store, the high school, the football field or at the Council House. My sincere sympathy to the family.##imported-begin##Jeneane Campbell##imported-end##

July 15, 2010 at 10:04 AM



“ What a beautiful tribute to such a special lady! She always looked beautiful and I will cherish many memories of she and Deruse. Our love and prayers are with you all.##imported-begin##Margaret Hess##imported-end##

July 14, 2010 at 04:44 PM