

## Mardell Jane Church DeGood

Jan. 8, 1916 - Oct. 10, 2004  
Mardell Jane Church DeGood



DeGood

was born Sept. 30, 1924, in Holdrege, Neb., the daughter of Frank Benjamin and Esther Josephine Freburg Church. Mardell's early years were spent growing up in Herndon. Her family moved to St. Francis when she was in the eighth grade and she graduated from St. Francis High School in 1942. She spent the next three years teaching in the Plum Creek, Pleasant Ridge and Jaqua school districts.

Mardell married Paul DeGood on July 2, 1944, in the United Methodist Church parsonage in St. Francis. Mardell spent her entire adult life in St. Francis with the exception of one year when she resided in California while Paul was in the Pacific during World War II. Returning to St. Francis, Mardell and Paul lived on the family farm until 1956 when they moved into St. Francis to their home at 504 West First Street. For 30 years she was employed as secretary for Cheyenne County Road and Bridge.

Mardell was a true steward to God and life. She and her husband Paul were very active in numerous community activities. She was an energetic member of the United Methodist Church, having served as co-chairman of the Funeral Dinner Committee for 14 years as part of the Merry Circle. She and Paul served as MYF leaders for a number of years (probably trying to keep track of their children). She was a member of Doric Chapter of Eastern Star and served as Past Worthy Matron. Mardell was responsible for organizing the American Cancer Society Card-O-Rama in Cheyenne County. She was president of the Cheyenne Cancer Society for many years and served as the Fifth District Crusade advisor. Mardell and Paul were 4-H Community Leaders of the Lawn Ridge 4-H Club for over 10 years. She assisted many children in the community with demonstrations and project talks. Mardell was an active participant in the St. Francis Senior Center enjoying the fellowship and activities.

Mardell had many interests during busy her lifetime. Genealogy was a challenging avocation and she was a member of the Mayflower Descendants and the Cheyenne County Historical Society. Other organizations in which she participated were Rambler's Club, Tuesday Club and a home demonstration unit. Her family and friends were often the recipients of beautiful pieces of needlework, craft projects and quilts. Fishing, camping, playing cards and games, traveling and gardening were also favorite activities.

Mardell died on Oct. 10, 2004, in Wichita, Kan. She was preceded in death by an infant son, Kenton Dean, her parents, Frank and Esther Church and her beloved husband, Paul.

She is survived by a daughter, Karen and husband Harold Engle of Madison, a son, Alan and wife Dianne of Goddard, five grandchildren and their spouses; Kirk and Jill Engle, Kelt and Kim Engle, Kerrie and Jason Mayans, Ryan and Alana Engle, and Melissa and Araon Opbroek, eight great-grandchildren, and a sister, Darlene Wright

of Denver.

Services were held Oct. 12, 2004, at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis, with interment at the St. Francis Cemetery. The services were conducted by Pastor Morita Truman. The pallbearers were Dwen DeGood, Lanny DeGood, Harvey Forsythe, Dave Roberson, Matt Smull and Tom Smull.

## Shannon K. Ross

July 29, 1960 - Sept. 11, 2004

Shannon K. Ross, 44 died suddenly at her home in Rowlett, Texas, Sept. 11, 2004. Services were held Sept. 18 at the First United Methodist Church in Rowlett with the Rev. Dawn Weak of the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, officiating. Judge Jan Boyle spoke on behalf of the federal justice system members.

A memorial service was also held Sept. 16 at the First Christian church in Atwood, Kan., with the Rev. Christine Edwards officiating, assisted by Rev. John Bartlett. There was cremation, with burial to take place at a later date.

Assistant United States Attorney Ross was Criminal Chief of the U.S. Attorney's office for North Texas. She received her bachelor of arts degree cum laude from the University of Kansas and graduated first in her class from Baylor University in 1986, where she earned her Juris Doctorate. That year, she was admitted to the Texas Bar.

She worked for 10 years as a Dallas County assistant district attorney, where she became head of the organized crime division focusing on drug prosecutions.

In May of 1997, she was appointed to serve as an Assistant United States Attorney and served as Deputy Criminal Chief over the Narcotics and Violent Crime Section. In 2002 she was promoted to Criminal Chief, where she supervised 70 criminal prosecutors in the 100-county North Texas division. She worked closely with the FBI, Secret Service and numerous federal and state departments, as well as the Dallas Police Department. She was beloved and greatly respected by those with whom she worked. Her consistent message was "Seek the truth and always be fair."

She was named Prosecutor of the Year by the Texas Narcotics Officers Association and was awarded the C. Chris Marshall Distinguished Faculty award for outstanding contributions to the education of Texas Prosecutors. For 10 years, Shannon taught criminal justice courses for Dallas Community College and was honored with the Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award in 1997.

Shannon was born in Hays, Kans., July 29, 1960, to Keith and Rosalie Russell Ross. She grew up in Atwood, Kans., where she was valedictorian of the Atwood High School Class of 1978.

She was a lifelong member of the Christian Church and presently was serving at the First Christian Church of Rowlett as an elder and Sunday School teacher. This fall, she received a full scholarship to Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth TCU Campus, to begin a second career in the ministry. She was known by friends and co-workers alike for her enthusiastic witness for Christ.

Shannon had a great appreciation of the arts. She was an avid musician and served as pianist in her church's praise band. Her love of travel took her to many places around the globe. Wherever she traveled, the local art gallery was sure to be first on her list

of sites to visit.

Swimming was also her lifelong hobby. As a youth, she was a member of her swim team and later managed the swimming pools in Atwood and Oberlin. She also coached swim teams and taught swimming classes, the latest to a group of "grannies."

She was preceded in death by an infant brother, Stuart Ross and grandparents, Eddie and Doris Ross and Roby and Beryl Russell.

Shannon is survived by her parents, Keith and Rosalie Ross of Atwood; her brothers, Scott Ross and wife, Kathy, of Stockton, and Robb and wife, Julie, of Colby; nephews, Riley and Seth Ross; nieces, Jessica Katie and Kari Ross; other relatives; and many friends.

A memorial has been established in her name to the ACE Foundation, Box 224, Atwood, KS 67730

## Harold Earl Booker

Jan 8, 1916 - Oct 11, 2004

Harold Earl Booker was born on Jan. 8, 1916 in Jewell County, Kan., the youngest son of 13 children of Richard and Laua Booker. He grew up on the farm, married Cleo Howard in 1942. They had five children: Larry, Lois, Laura Evelyne, Georgia (Jo) and Earl. He served in World War II as an airplane mechanic and hydraulic instructor, and was a master mechanic by trade, retiring from Gates Rubber Company after 20 years of service. Even though he only graduated from the 8 grade he completed numerous college-level courses and obtained

his real estate license before retiring. After retirement he and Cleo bought, remodeled, and sold property as a hobby.

He lived 55 years in the Denver area, and moved back to Kansas in 1998, where he lived in Goodland for a short time, and then moved to St. Francis where he made a lot of friends and felt like he had finally come home. He was unusually talented at working with his hands, renovating houses, making furniture, and fixing mechanical things. He enjoyed doing handy-man work, often inventing tools that would make the job easier. He could play Scrabble for hours and his large vocabulary made for challenging games.

He was preceded in death by his wife Cleo and his son Larry. He is survived by daughter, Lois Brassfield, and her husband Don of Littleton, Laura Evelyne Reeser, and her husband Rick of St. Francis, Jo Hagney of St. Francis, One son, Earl of Denver, and daughter-in-law Ann Booker of Los Lunas, NM. He has eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

He died Monday, Oct. 11, 2004 at the Cheyenne County Hospital after a battle with heart disease. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to the Cheyenne county Hospital.

A Memorial Service will be held at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis on Thursday, Oct. 14, at 2:00 PM. Burial will be at Ft. Logan Military Cemetery in Denver next Monday will full military honors.



CARE PACKAGES—Twila Kramer and Casey McCormick add items to the box of supplies to be sent to servicemen in Iraq. Herald staff photo by Lezlie Hill

## Items for servicemen to be picked up at noon

By Karen Krien

The boxes for collecting items for soldiers' care packages are filling up much faster than expected which is good as items will be collected by noon on Thursday. Hulda Dorsch, American Legion Auxiliary member, Bird City, can take them to put with other items collected throughout the state. The boxes are located at the different business places in Cheyenne County including Hometown Market, Bird City; St. Francis Supers', P & L Ideal Meat Market and The Saint Francis Herald.

At each of the businesses, there is a list of the items which are needed for the care packages. Any money donations will be used to either buy more items for the boxes or used for shipping them — a cost which will amount to \$5,000 to \$6,000.

The local Legions and VFWs are joining with Operation SOS (Supporting Our Soldiers), an organiza-

tion with the goal to provide support to the troops serving the United States overseas.

Operation SOS is planning on packing 500 boxes to send to soldiers overseas in time for the holidays. Items gathered from Cheyenne County will help fill the packages.

Mrs. Dorsch said if anyone has a family member or know of someone who is serving in Iraq should contact her at 785-734-2792 and they will try to get a care package to each of these people.

Since its inception, Operation SOS has sent almost 700 packages containing a wide range of supplies such as 300 pillows, 1,500 dozen homemade cookies and countless food and toiletry items that are taken for granted in northwest Kansas and the rest of the United States. Last year, 125 care packages were sent for the holidays and the organization is planning on sending 500 boxes this year.

## St. Francis News

Mr. and Mrs. John England of Englewood, Colo., Mr and Mrs. George Harper, and Eric were Tuesday supper guests of Donna and Norvin Northrup celebrating Debra's birthday.

Milton and Betty Lampe were guests of Kirk, Debbie and Kyle Grizzell of macksville from Friday thru Sunday, October 8-10.

They enjoyed the parade down main street and Pep Assembly on Friday afternoon and the Homecoming football game when they had the crowning of the Homecoming King and queen as Kyle Grizzell

and Jenna Wood. Travis Grizzell of Hays joined the family there.

Enroute going and coming home they stopped in Hays to visit Gravis Grizzell.

Marilyn Krien, Aurora, Colo., was a Friday through Sunday houseguest of Billy and Karen Krien and visited her parents Bill and Leone Krien. Todd Krien, Celeste, Texas, arrived late Saturday and will spend the week with his parents Billy and Karen. He attended the Cheyenne County Trail Ride on Sunday and will also be visiting his grandparents.

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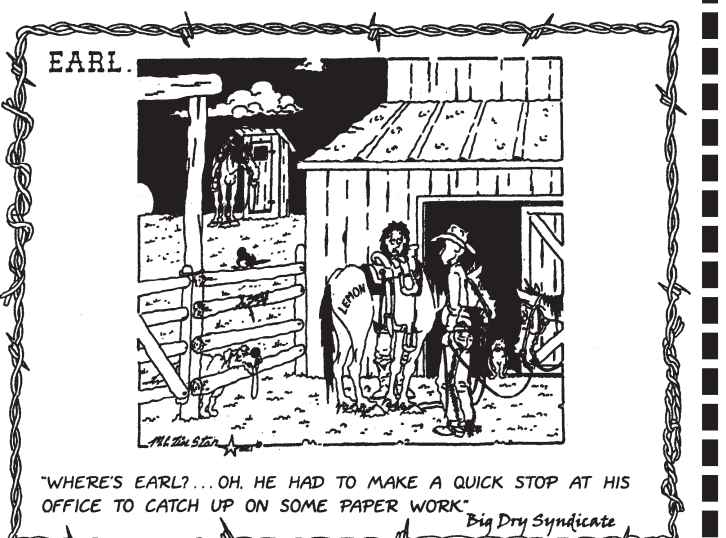
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