

IN MEMORIAM

MARY ETTA RAMSEYER *Worthy Grand Matron 1978-1979*

On January 8, 2018, our golden chain was broken when God took Mary Etta Ramseyer home to his eternal heavens. From her own Grand Session remarks she reminded us, "To all whose loved one has left this earthly dwelling place, may we remember that the soul would have no rainbow had the eyes no tears, and may we be comforted to believe that this world is not conclusion, a sequel stands beyond, invisible as music but positive as sound." The joy, enthusiasm and kindness she always displayed in life, will be with us forever in her sequel, each time we see a brilliant star or inspiring rainbow.

Mary's rich and accomplished life began on July 10, 1929, being born into the Anderson family, the early pioneers, of Filer Idaho where dad Frank was the village blacksmith. Growing up she loved riding her bicycle around town and especially family skiing outings at Magic Mountain, learning the sport at age nine. It was so loved by all, the family built a cabin in 1961 in Ketchum, Idaho and was the place for countless fun camping and skiing events for the Anderson family as well as Mary's children and even the grandchildren who all got taught skiing at an early age by Mary and adopted her love for it.

During high school, Mary met a farmer's son named Duane Ramseyer who soon became the love of her life. They both attended Linfield College but Mary chose to trade her completion of college for becoming Duane's soul mate in marriage in August of 1950. The second year of marriage Duane was drafted into the Army Signal Corps during the Korean War and while stationed in California, their daughter Lynn was born. After two years they returned to the farm in Filer and spent the next 67 years there raising their four children, Lynn, Phyllis, David and John. Mary embraced being a farmer's wife and the demands of that lifestyle. She was active and supportive in her children's lives as a 4-H Mother, Mother Advisor for Rainbow Girls in Filer along with being active in PEO, Past Matrons Club, Star Social, Order of the Nile and her Methodist Church. In all pursuits she personified her philosophy: Living a strong family life, respect for others and always doing your best. After the children left home Mary seized upon a new adventure to complete her schooling. Riding a bus every day to attend Idaho State University where she studied Library Education. Her first job was at Lincoln Elementary School and enjoyed being a librarian and interacting with the students. When the new Oregon Trail School opened, she accepted the position of their first librarian. While a demanding job, she was excited about it and the great success that followed. Yet, after her retirement her new post as grandmother-in-residence was likely the most rewarding job of all to Mary.

Mary was proud to be a fifty year member of the Order she revered and loved and especially proud to have been a member of Bunker Hill Chapter #28, Filer Chapter #40 and Twin Falls Chapter #29. In 1978 she was installed as Worthy Grand Matron alongside her Worthy Grand Patron, Sidney Chaffee. It was the 'Magic Moments' Grand session with Bee's for the emblem, sunshine and rainbows the symbols, 'Do Your Best' as the motto and the watchwords: Enthusiasm, Understanding and Kindness. 76 chapters were present and over 740 voting delegates. Mary was especially excited to pay tribute to General Grand Chapter Committee members: PGM, Elsie Lathen, Credentials Comm. And Gertrude Weber, PGM, Welfare Comm.

Below was part of her closing remarks. May the boundless reward she found, lighten the heavy heart of the loved ones and friends who will miss her.

*Memory will paint this glorious year,
With rainbow colors that never fade.
And I will find reward for my service,
In the hearts of the friends I've made.*

In loving remembrance, let this Memorial be read in each subordinate chapter not later than the second stated meeting following its receipt and the Altar draped.

Liz Hughes
Worthy Grand Matron

Judith Walsborn, Grand Secretary

John Hughes
Worthy Grand Patron