



Maxine Eleanor (Ballew) Farnham

April 18, 1924 - August 8, 2010

Maxine Eleanor (Ballew) Farnham went home to be with her Lord at 8:40 a.m., Sunday, August 08, 2010, at Sunset Village of the Ozarks, St. Robert, Missouri, at the age of 86 years, 3 months and 21 days.

Maxine was born on April 18, 1924, a few miles north of Waynesville, Missouri, in a community known as Sweet Home. Her parents, Mart and Molly Ballew were blessed with two daughters. Maxine's younger sister, Jean Etta was born thirteen months later. When Mart, a school teacher, was elected Circuit Clerk and Recorder of Deeds (where he served 20 years), the family moved to Waynesville in January, 1926. Upon their move, the family began attending the Methodist Church. Since Molly was Methodist, and Mart was Baptist, they would often visit the Baptist Church. In the spring of 1938, Maxine was baptized in the Roubidoux River, just above the bridge along with her sister, Jean Etta, Jim Dodds, and others. Maxine has always been very active in the Waynesville United Methodist Church, serving on the Administrative Board for many years, Finance chair, Secretary Board of Trustees, Worship chair, and other committees. She enjoyed teaching Sunday school and reading the "Upper Room" and her daily devotionals.

In 1930, Maxine started primary school and was promoted to first grade that year. She attended twelve years of school at Waynesville (much of that meeting in the Methodist Church). Her senior class (1942) was the first to

graduate from the “new” school, (former middle school). She was the salutatorian of her class, only hundreds of a tenth percent behind Maurice Eldredge. School activities included: class offices, band, volley ball, speech, vocal music and was elected yearbook queen. She helped her father in the court house typing after school, in order to keep up with purchases by Ft. Leonard Wood, which all came through his office. She also worked for Charles C. Meek Lumber Company three summers and after school.

Maxine met Gene Farnham of Iberia when they were both juniors in high school. He asked one of her friends if they would arrange a date, and they dated all of the next year during the beginning of WWII. Gene was scheduled to go into the service, so he convinced her they should get married. They eloped and married on September 10, 1942. They lived in Iberia and worked at Farnham and Son, a general store and lumber yard until April, 1945, when they purchased the Waynesville Lumber Company. They operated this business for 27 years. At one time, she and Gene owned interests in lumber yards in Waynesville, Dixon, Iberia and Osage Beach. She was the bookkeeper for all of these lumber yards. Gene passed away suddenly on April 19, 1995. Gene and Maxine were happily married for 53 years and they shared one daughter, Susan. Their family soon grew to include Susan’s husband, Erv Morriss; two grandchildren: Lindy McKinnon and Michael Morriss and his wife, Jeanne; eight great grandchildren: Richie McKinnon (Alicia Wilson), Melissa Vernon (Brian), Logan McCurley, Makayla Morriss Eddie DeLizo, Jacob Morriss, Eric Morriss and Audrey Lepard and three great-great grandchildren: Richie McKinnon, Jr., Davin and Dailey Vernon. She dearly loved her special nieces: Randee Jean Gibson (Richard) and Rebecca Ballew West (Paul). She also leaves other relatives and many friends.

After working for over 27 years in the lumber business, Maxine worked as payroll clerk for Non Appropriated Funds on Ft. Leonard Wood. A year later,

she and Gene purchased Westside Hardware Company, and in 1975, she opened Farnham Real Estate. She obtained her Real Estate Broker's License and Graduate Realtor Institute Certificate. She owned and operated the realty for 31 years. She enjoyed her clients and spent much of her time helping with questions and coming up with solutions to problems concerning land and property.

Maxine was a very active member of her community and held various offices of responsibility in the following organizations: Waynesville Business and Professional Women's Club (Charter Member 1954, hosted and chaired the annual Senior Girl's Tea for many years), Waynesville-St. Robert Area Chamber of Commerce (Citizen of the Year, 1985), The Order of the Eastern Star of Missouri, Hanson Chapter 22 (member since 1945, Worthy Matron 1955, District Deputy Grand Matron 1962, Grand Representative to South Carolina 1969-71, helped begin and actively involved in the local chapter of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls), Waynesville Lioness Club (charter member), Pulaski County Historical Society and Museum Auxiliary to the Missouri Historical Society, Toastmasters International (charter member), Women's International Bowling Congress, Waynesville Achievement Club, Pulaski County Council for the Handicapped, Theatre Guild Board at Ft. Leonard Wood, Pulaski County Board of Realtors and Missouri Association of Realtors, Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation (founder, instrumental in the acquisition of this landmark). Maxine felt very blessed to have traveled to Venice, Rome, France, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Mexico, South America, many islands and greater part of the United States. Her motto was, "What I can give is never as much as I can get from giving."

Visitation was at Noon, with services following at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, August 14, at Waynesville United Methodist Church, with Rev. Bill O'Neal and Danny

Graves officiating. Rev. Pam Jackson and Christie Dillon read scripture. Jan Primas read the obituary, and Terry Primas shared about Maxine's love of history. Maxine's nephew-in-law, Rick Gibson, played the guitar before the service. Evelyn Horine sang, "Psalm 23" and "The Lord's Prayer." Cheryl Wood sang, "In the Garden" and played as the choir sang selections as the congregation exited the sanctuary. Assisting with media and sound were Steve Stapleton and Shawn North. Serving as escorts were Kerry and Bill Farnham, Andy Gibson, Michael Collins, Paul West, Ed DeLizo, Brian Vernon and Richard McKinnon. Honorary escorts were Keith Pritchard, Bill Morgan, Jim Dodds, Gary Porter, Ray Cordry, Jim Phillips and Nina Kimbrough.

Burial followed in Waynesville Memorial Park Cemetery. Services were under direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory, Waynesville/St. Robert.

Memorial contributions were suggested in memory of Maxine Farnham to the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation, P.O. Box 585, Waynesville, MO 65583.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 14. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Waynesville United Methodist Church
200 Lovely Lane
Waynesville, MO

Service

AUG 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

Waynesville United Methodist Church
200 Lovely Lane
Waynesville, MO

Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Maxine Eleanor (Ballew) Farnham*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - August 08, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Maxine Eleanor (Ballew) Farnham*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *Cornelia & Robert Dodds lit a candle in memory of Maxine Eleanor (Ballew) Farnham*



Cornelia & Robert Dodds - November 27, 2020 at 11:42 AM



“ *Nano, I miss you so very much.. I talk about you often and tell Little Richie how great of a person you were. I sure love you and know you are watching over us .Love, Alicia###imported-begin###Alicia Wilson###imported-end###*

June 28, 2011 at 01:42 PM



“ Susie I am so sorry to hear of Max's passing...she was a wonderful lady and will be greatly missed. Randee and Becky, special thoughts of you both, I remember going to her house when we were in jr. high or down to the lumber yard and that huge fish on the wall your Uncle caught...I know you were very close to her and try and take comfort in knowing she is with your Mom now watching over all of you.##imported-begin##Sheila Debo##imported-end##

August 12, 2010 at 10:02 PM



“ My condolences to Maxine's family. She and Gene were good friends of me and my family for years. Jeanetta was my 5th grade teacher and I have fond memories of her also as well as Randy.

May they all rest in peace!##imported-begin##James Pullen##imported-end##

August 12, 2010 at 11:11 AM



“ My deepest sympathy go to the family of such a wonderful lady. I took care of Maxine at Sunset Village for a while and I came to love this wonderful woman. Know this, your family will remain in my prayers...God bless to all of you and may He carry you on His wings during this time.##imported-begin##Rachael (Pich) Medinger##imported-end##

August 11, 2010 at 07:28 PM



“ Maxine will be sorely missed by all who knew her.##imported-begin##Jan Henson##imported-end##

August 11, 2010 at 12:59 PM



“ I served with Maxine on the county Board for the Handicapped. She was a dedicated volunteer and a nice person. My God comfort you in your loss.

Sincerely,

Mary Morgan##imported-begin##Mary Morgan##imported-end##

August 10, 2010 at 09:44 PM



“ It was always such a pleasure to talk with Miss Maxine. I would stop in the office to deliver Homes magazines or other info from the Board office and a conversation would always start. Sincere sympathy to all of you at this time. May God be with you and grant you His peace.##imported-begin##Sharon Downs##imported-end##

August 10, 2010 at 03:49 PM



“ My sincerest sympathy to all of the family in this loss. All of us at RE/MAX were honored to have know Maxine. God be with you all.##imported-begin##Shirley Spencer-Boggess##imported-end##

August 10, 2010 at 03:32 PM



“ I am sorry to hear about your loss. Maxine was a wonderful lady and very close to our family.##imported-begin##Amy Dodds##imported-end##

August 10, 2010 at 12:18 PM



“ Dear Erv, Susan, Mike and family members, we were so sorry to hear of Maxine's passing. She was a great neighbor when we lived in Old Farm, always having something special for Alexis, our granddaughter, when she and her friends stopped by Maxine's home. And, was very gracious when we visited her at Sunset Village where Linda's Mom and Dad were for several years. Maxine was a positive force for many in our community and we know she will be missed but she established a great legacy through her actions and family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this sad time.##imported-begin##Roger and Linda Olney##imported-end##

August 10, 2010 at 10:23 AM



“ Our deepest condolence to Susan and her family on the loss of her mother. Our prayers and thoughts are with you at this time. God Bless.##imported-begin##Phil & Joy Bolduc##imported-end##

August 10, 2010 at 09:16 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Maxines passing. She was always friendly to me and I appreciated her kind spirit. I feel I have lost a good friend.

I hope the family is doing well in a tough time such as this.

Jim Mathews##imported-begin##Jim Mathews##imported-end##

August 09, 2010 at 03:55 PM



“*Erv, Susan and all, I am sorry that I am in Denver during this sad time. I would have been on the front row of her memorial service. Maxine was a lovely lady in all things. I will always remember her with a big smile on my face. She was a joy to know and to be around. The many things she did for Waynesville could not be listed. Much love to you all.##imported-begin##Luge Hardman##imported-end##*

August 09, 2010 at 01:27 PM



“*A wonderful friend and person.##imported-begin##Annette Troutt##imported-end##*

August 09, 2010 at 07:50 AM



“*A great lady. We lost a lot of local history today. My thoughts are with everyone who knew and loved her. Rest In Peace Maxine.##imported-begin##Laura Huffman##imported-end##*

August 08, 2010 at 11:11 PM



“*To Maxine's family. Where do I start. I have been to almost everyone of your homes at one time or another. I remember going to Mollie Ballew's home way back in the mid 60's. When hardly no one had a color TV. My job was to fix them. All of Maxine's family were so wonderful to me and my wife. Maxine bought many Rggidy Ann dolls from my wife Marjorie. We will miss her so much, Our condolences. Norman and Marjorie Stoll.##imported-begin##Norman & Marjorie Stoll##imported-end##*

August 08, 2010 at 10:32 PM



“ To the family members of Maxine Farnham, I know she will be missed very much and she will be remembered for all her good and outstanding deeds in this community. She loved the Old Stagecoach Stop and worked very hard to preserve it and always was interested in the Historical Society. She and Gene owned Farnham Realty when we purchased our home here in Waynesville back in 1977 and that is how we came to know Maxine. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and may you find peace from the Lord to console you at this time. She is with the Lord in hiis holy place. God Bless You All.##imported-begin##Marge and Gordon Scott##imported-end##

August 08, 2010 at 09:00 PM