



Grace Trathen Methven

May 28, 1927 - February 22, 2013

Our beloved Grace passed away peacefully on Friday, February 22, 2013 at the age of 85. Grace was born to Frank and Florence Trathen in Oakland, Calif. and moved to Napa in 1933 when her father purchased a 50 acre ranch on Linda Vista Ave. where they raised cows, chickens, pigs, ducks, geese, rabbits, and turkeys. Grace loved living on the family ranch and taking care of the animals. This love led her to join 4-H at age 10, an organization for which she would devote much of her life to. In the mid-sixties Grace met John F. Methven, Sr. They were married on August 18, 1968 and had 26 wonderful years together. Grace attended Salvador Elementary School, Napa High School, graduating in 1945, Napa Junior College for which she later was a Lifetime Alumni Member of the Napa Valley College Foundation and then went on to graduate from San Francisco State University with her teaching degree. After receiving her teaching credential, Grace's first teaching job was at the Intermediate School in Napa. She then moved to Shearer Elementary School where she taught for 37 years. She retired from the Napa Valley Unified School District after 41 years of dedicated service teaching Napa children. Grace taught around 1000 children over the years and would often run into them around town and they would tell her "I had you in 5th grade", or, "My sister had you as a teacher." She loved hearing about how they were doing and they often would tell her what a positive influence she was on their lives. After retirement Grace continued at Shearer as the school librarian and on May 1, 2003 the new library at Shearer Elementary School was named in her

honor. Then, Mayor Ed Henderson proclaimed it "Grace Methven Day" by the City of Napa. Grace also received the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award in 1997 for her volunteer service. Grace did not like to be the center of attention but loved to give. She devoted her life to the service of her community and especially to the children of that community. Grace was an adult leader for the Napa County 4-H program. Grace began her 4-H career as a youth member in 1937 and was a 4-H "All-Star" in 1944. She then continued in 4-H as an adult 4-H leader in 1947 and the 2012/2013 4-H year marked her 65th continuous year as an adult 4-H leader. Most people recognized Grace as the "Camp Registrar" for the Las Posadas 4-H camp that she herself attended as a child and continued to work on and support until the end of her life. Grace was also a fixture at the Napa Town and Country Fair. She was in charge of the 4-H exhibit hall and worked tirelessly arranging exhibits and presenting awards. In October, 2007, during National 4-H Week, the Napa County Board of Supervisors honored Grace with "Grace Methven Day" for her then 60 years as a 4-H leader and her dedication to the 4-H program and the 4-H children who she helped to mentor. Most recently at the 2012 Napa Town and Country Fair, the children of 4-H honored Grace for her dedication with a bench that now sits in the 4-H Exhibit Hall at the fairgrounds. Grace was also a long-standing member of the First United Methodist Church of Napa where she was a Sunday school teacher, the "Choir Mom" to the John Street Singers and with her mother would host a yearly Silver Service Tea Party for the ladies of the church. When Grace's mother, father, husband, and other family members needed to be cared for, Grace was there for them dedicating herself to their comfort and healthcare. When Grace had a free moment she could be found relaxing in her yard gardening or enjoying the outdoors. Grace is survived by her brother Albert Trathen, her devoted stepson John F. Methven, Jr. who provided love and support through her recent illness, stepdaughter Linda Methven, Chad Methven (grandson), Amy Klenk (granddaughter), Lachland and Jayda Klenk (great-grandchildren), David, Larry, and Richard Trathen (nephews), other family members, as well as numerous friends who

loved her. The family requests that donations be made in her name to the Napa County 4-H Camp Program, 1710 Soscol Ave., Suite 4, Napa CA 94559 so that children may continue to attend the camp that Grace loved or to the Parkinson Research Foundation. Friends are invited to attend a memorial service for Grace on Friday, March 1 at 11:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 625 Randolph St. Please sign the guestbook at www.treadwaywigger.com.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Treadway & Wigger Funeral Chapel & Crematory - February 05, 2020 at 09:27 AM



“ *Grace Trathen Methven*

November 19, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ Miss Trathen was the Librarian of the lovely Shearer School Library in the original building during my childhood, and it was there that I first met her, with Mrs. Foley, my first grade teacher. I had just learned how to read, books with the art included in them were nourishing to me, and Miss Trathen, (later Mrs. Methven), allowed me to sit quietly alone in the Library and read. We shared a love of the storybook paintings overhead, the fireplace with beautiful tiles and grey leather seats, but most of all we cherished the peace and quiet amid the books.

Her love of books was contagious, and through the years she suggested classic story books to me. I was never her student in a classroom setting, but I was fortunate to have her keen oversight in the Shearer School Library, which I will always be grateful for. Of course she knew every single book in the Library because she'd chosen them all, and it was because of her that I began to understand the meanings of the children's book awards that were placed on many of the dust jackets of the books.

Later when I returned to Shearer School under Title I I knew Mrs. Methven as Grace, as a colleague, and it was during those years that I discovered her infectious sense of humor and exquisite organizational skills. I was a teenager, she was middle aged, and often times I could not keep pace with her natural vigor and vitality. I vividly remember carrying boxes of books after school for her down the green ramp of the old school from her classroom to the Library downstairs, while she raced ahead of me, laughing, hoisting twice as many boxes, practically skipping all the way down! She was a marvel!

Grace never had a bad day, a harsh word, or became impatient after long hours with a classroom filled with over thirty restless fifth graders, and nothing appeared to unsettle her calm, cheerful demeanor. Her kindness and thoughtfulness to students and staff was constant. Grace thrived on giving of herself, and although she shunned the limelight, she deserved every bit of it in everything she directed and undertook.

When I was a child and later as a young adult Grace was a wonderful role model for me, as a Teacher, a Librarian, and as a

Professional Woman. We shared a love of books, of learning, and we both carried the lamp of Education. When I left to go off to art school Grace had tears in her eyes as she told me to work hard and to learn as much as I could, which I did. I have never forgotten the earnest expression on her face, and I have treasured that wonderful memory ever since.

At one point in my adult life I managed a small book publishing company, went on to work in another, then began designing, writing and publishing books in collaboration with my art gallery. I know full well that the time that Grace spent with me during the lunch hours she allowed me to sit quietly in the Shearer School Library reading while she worked contributed to my love of books, and it was her insight that helped me later professionally. Books, reading, learning and teaching were and are a passion for me, and Grace's influence in those areas have made a profound difference.

I always thought that Grace lived up to her name, and was truly a prime example of God's divinity in action here on earth. My life has been embellished by the attention and friendship I shared with her, and I will continually remember her with fondness.

April 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ We just got back in town and were so saddened to hear of Grace's death. She was a very special person who gave so much not only to the children of Napa but to everyone she came in contact with. Her legacy will be the many students whose lives she touched. We are sorry that we were unable to make the memorial service.

March 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ We have all had many teachers in our lives, but there are usually only a few who stand out and who we still remember so many years later. Mrs. Methven was one of those teachers. I had her as my 5th grade teacher at Shearer school in 1979 and I can still see her so clearly standing in front of the class. After I moved back to Napa I enjoyed seeing her around town and of course I always saw her at the fair. She could not have been named more perfectly, as she had a "grace" about her that is rarely found. I will remember her fondly and consider myself blessed to have known her.

March 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I knew her as "Miss Trathen" when she was my 5th grade teacher in 1958. What a special person and amazing teacher! She was always so kind and patient. We need more teachers like her to guide our young people. My sympathies to her family. How lucky you were to have her in your life to guide you.

March 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear John and Family:
Grace was one in a million. Kind, smart, funny and passionate about children. I loved her dearly and will miss her. She was devoted to the annual Town and Country Fair and did such a great job making each child's entry have the feel of a blue ribbon with her love and concern.

March 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear John and family,
What a lovely lady Grace was! It was our honor to live next door from 1972 until 1991 when we moved. She was always so welcoming and kind. Our kids, now grown, remember her fondly, especially for her oranges and grapefruit, which she shared so generously. We will remember her in our prayers.
God bless her and you,
Karen, Paul, Greg and Lynn Segas

March 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear John, Grace was a very dear person. She will be greatly missed. I enjoyed visiting her at her home and at The Meadows.
Shiela Brock

March 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ Grace's warmth always made feel welcomed at the Shearer School library. The environment she created was a gift to so many students. Thank you for all your years of service.

March 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *always made me feel welcomed

March 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I will never forget my 5th grade teacher, Miss Trathen. She had an uncommon deep and quiet strength. The care and guidance of many great teachers helped to shape us, and hers was perhaps the most right and true.

February 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ What a woman Grace was! We worked together at Shearer elementary where she was, first, a skilled teacher, respected by staff, parents and students alike, then the unflappable, knowledgeable librarian. Grace exemplified the best of her generation--smart, steady, strong, reliable, cheerful, loving, funny, and on and on. I'll miss seeing her driving the big, blue station wagon with purpose to her next important volunteer engagement and am sorry not to be able to attend her memorial. I'll be thinking of her fondly and often this week and frequently forever.

February 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so glad I had the pleasure to know and work with Grace at Shearer School. She might not had kids of her own, but she had alot of children who's lives she touched.

February 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Though we cannot be present to celebrate the life of Grace, we join others in sharing the love that Grace has bestowed on all of us. Our thoughts are with you Grace, John, and to those who have had the pleasure to have known you. You will always have a special place in our hearts. From your loving great grandchildren in Australia Jayda (6) and Lachlan (9)*

February 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear John, and family Grace was a amazing lady , yes in the 5 th grade she scared me ") but as an adult it was My privilege to get to know her as the awesomely Caring , Lady that gave so much and asked so little. What an example she was !! How great to leave such A legacy of devotion !!*

February 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM