

Westbrook

Society Presents

GG Aikins



Genevieve (GG) Aikins was born July 30, 1915, in the country home in Allen County, Kansas, to Dale and Segrid Jordan. Her two year old sister, La Velle, patted her, said "GG" and the nickname stuck! The girls rode a pony to a one-room country school. In 1928, the family went to Yellowstone Park and Salt Lake City to ride the biggest rollercoaster and swim in the Lake. Then on to Pendleton, Oregon, to spend a month with their aunt and uncle on a sheep ranch near the Columbia River.

At home, they heard Billy Sunday's sermons, went to Barnum & Bailey Circuses, chautauquas and state fairs. She was confirmed in the Friend's Home Lutheran Church. She loved to fish, helped with farm chores and drove a Fordson tractor. She started working as a soda jerk at the local drug store at age 13. She worked there for four years. After graduation from Savonburg High School, she attended Ft. Scott Junior College. She taught three years in country schools. In 1938, she went to Pittsburg State in Pittsburg, KS. She worked part-time as a clerk in a store. She would finger wave hair for other students as well as staff member's wives. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Science and minors in Business, History and Physical Education. She competed in five sports for her sorority.

While at a dance in college, GG was asked to dance by Bob Aikins. She accepted and two and a half years later they married. While they were still dating, GG taught school and Bob was a Professional Boy Scout executive. After marrying in 1940, Bob was transferred to Norfolk, NE, and then to Des Moines, IA. Bob decided to join the Army in 1942 and so they moved back to Oxford, KS, Bob's hometown, prior to his enlistment. His family owned The Oxford Milling Company. Bob was discharged in 1945.

In 1952, they bought the Oxford Register, a weekly newspaper with a large print shop. Their 4 children, Terry (1942), Helen (1944), David (1946) and Dale (1948) grew up, graduated from high school and Pittsburg State during the fifteen years they owned the Oxford Register. GG recalls that she cut a wisdom tooth with everyone of her pregnancies. After four, she knew she was finished. They sold the paper and Bob taught Art while GG taught Science and Math until they retired. They spent most of their teaching careers in Kingman, KS. GG taught sixth grade and Bob taught high school.

They had a travel trailer for sixteen years and visited 40 states and traveled across Southern Canada. They would substitute teach in area schools for six months and then would work at Silver Dollar City from May to October, the other six months. They did this for four years until Bob's death in 1981. GG continued substitute teaching all grades for another 13 years - teaching a total of 35 years. She traveled with F.F. International. She has been to 39 foreign countries, on six continents, cruised on the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas and went on a five day cruise down the Nile.

GG moved from Oxford, KS, to Westbrook in October of 2008. Her family lives close enough to visit often. She has ten grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. She enjoys playing bridge, bingo and bowling. She recently bowled a 277. Yipee!! She says the friendly and professional staff members are great. To quote GG, "I have a happy home here with many friends."



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