

Obituary

Mary Jane Johnson (Palmer)

Johnson, Mary Jane, age 93, (February 1, 1918 to September 14, 2011) of Seattle, Washington and formerly of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Preceded in death by her parents George C. Palmer and Bernadine "Dean" Palmer; her husband Oscar Edward Johnson; daughter Susan Dean Johnson, all of Minneapolis; cousin Marjorie Anonsen of Riceville, Iowa; and granddaughter Mary Hustad of Edmonds, Washington. Survived by her sons Paul Edward Johnson and his wife Tracey of Minneapolis; Larry George Johnson and his wife Glenna of Newcastle, Washington; and Eric Palmer Johnson whose whereabouts have been unknown since 1972; her daughter Sylvia Marie Hustad and her husband John of Edmonds, Washington. Also survived by six grandchildren: Jennifer O'Donnell, James "Jim" Hustad, William "Bill" Hustad, Hillary Nye, Sarah George, and Jesse Johnson. Also survived by 10 great grandchildren.

Following graduation from Washburn High School in Minneapolis (1936) Mary Jane graduated from Miss Woods School in Minneapolis, Minnesota and went on to serve as a kindergarten and first grade teacher in Cody Wyoming, Goodhue, Minnesota, and as a special education teacher for deaf students in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mary Jane created and operated five children's day care centers over five decades, including the first day care center at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis where she also sang in the church choir during the 1950s. Along with her husband Oscar "Ed" Johnson, she served Cub Scout Pack 73 and Boy Scout Troop 73 in Minneapolis.

During the 1980s Mary Jane became a volunteer for the National Humane Society, working in elementary classrooms in the state of Washington to educate children in the proper care of their pets.

While residing in the Four Freedoms in Seattle, Washington during the 1980s, Mary Jane obtained funding for a large-screen TV plus VHS tapes and conducted a weekly "Movie Night" for the residents.

During the more than eleven years Mary Jane resided at Foss Home in Edmonds, Washington, she received excellent care from the Foss Home staff, inspired by her positive disposition and her creative contributions to her companions, especially when she provided them dancing lessons.

Mary Jane's dedication to the care, well-being, and development of children serves as a continuing inspiration to her family and countless others as a model for parenting, community involvement, and the growth of positive self-esteem within all who had the good fortune to know her.

Mary Jane will be buried next to her beloved mother, Bernadine Palmer, in the Riceville Cemetery in Riceville, Iowa, where her father's ancestors are also at rest.