



Mary Cleo Wittman

March 28, 2008

Mary Cleo Wittman, 101, of Topeka, passed away Friday, March 28, 2008 at the McCrite Plaza Health Care Center. She was born Sept. 6, 1906 in Richmond, MO, the daughter of Austin and Lucy Larkey Bellis. Cleo attended Ottawa High School. In 1935 she married Leo Wittman, and together they owned and operated their family farm while raising their children. She was known for her piano playing and love of music. Cleo was also a life member of the Rebekah Lodge. Throughout her life, her children, church and music remained the most important part of her life. She married Leo C. Wittman on Dec. 1, 1935 in Ottawa. He preceded her in death in April, 1995. A granddaughter, Jennifer Badsky, as well as two sisters, Vergie Rumford and Ethel Rector also preceded her in death. Survivors include two daughters, Deanna Sponamore and husband Tom of Topeka, Elaine Schlaefle and husband Ralph of Des Moines, IA; a son, Warren Wittman and wife Sue of Auburn, AL; four grandchildren, Robin Badsky of Topeka, Kim Sponamore of Overland Park, Greta Strief and husband Mike of Des Moines, Greg Schlaefle of Des Moines and two great grandchildren, Jared Schlaefle and Dylan Strief, both of Des Moines. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at the Pomona United Methodist Church in Pomona with burial to follow in the Pomona Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Pomona United Methodist Church and sent in care of the Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd., Topeka, KS 66614.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Cleo Wittman*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Dear Deanna*

Please accept my sincere sympathy on the death of your Mother. It has been approximately 55 years since I last saw your Mother but, I remember her well as it seems like she was always awake when I brought you home. Please express my sympathy to the other members of your family.

Larry Northway - April 08, 2008 at 12:14 PM



“ *Dear Dee and family,
I met Cleo when I sat with a woman at McCrites. I thought she was the sweetest woman I have ever met, and enjoyed talking to her and especially her piano playing. She often spoke of Deanna and Leo to me. I know she will be missed by all. God Bless your family.*

Stephanie Sell - April 05, 2008 at 04:42 PM



“ *Dear Dee and Family,
I am sorry for the loss of your dear Mother. I will remember her quick smile and love of music as she played the piano at Mccrites, she could always brighten the day.
Mary Bunn*

Mary Bunn - April 01, 2008 at 10:09 AM

JC

“ *The members of the Rebekah Assembly of Kansas extend our deepest sympathy to you. Cleo was a long-time member of the Rebekahs, and it was a passion which she truly enjoyed! Our prayers are with you.*

JaNell Clark - March 31, 2008 at 08:18 PM

FW

“ *My Dad and Leo were first cousins. I remember my Dad would always speak very highly of Leo and Cleo. I have always been told that Cleo played the piano very well. Our sympathy to all the family*

Frank & Connie Wittman - March 31, 2008 at 02:33 PM

WS

“ *Dear Dee, Tom, and Kim*

Please accept my condolences on the loss of your mother and grandmother Cleo. I have fond memories of meeting Cleo at Kim's birthday parties and that Cleo loved to have a bowl of ice cream along with Dee's terrific cheesecakes. I also remember her love of music and how she enjoyed the music programs at McCrites.

Cleo was well loved and will be missed by all.

Sincerely,

Wayne Steenbock

Wayne Steenbock - March 30, 2008 at 05:52 PM