



Frances Soukup-Seeley

October 31, 1929 - November 18, 2009

Frances Soukup Seeley, a native of Wagner, SD went to her eternal rest on Nov. 18, 2009 at the age of 94. At the time of her death she was one of the oldest alumni of South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD). In fact, she was the third oldest alumni of the school.

Frances was a student at SDSD when the farm was still a part of the school. She played basketball and was a class officer during her high school years. Shortly after graduating from SDSD in 1936 she was offered a job at the school. She worked there a little more one year. She later determined that this was not for her and moved with a friend to California.

Frances obtained a job working at the Douglas Aircraft Plant that was in need of workers when America was at war, to build instrument panels for the big aircrafts. While working at the Douglas Aircraft Plant Frances faithfully sent her mother cash every week when she got paid. She also treated herself a box of See's chocolate candies every week.

Frances married John H. Seeley in Las Vegas, Nevada on December 22, 1963. Their marriage was short-lived as John was killed in a tragic plane crash on July 26, 1967. John and Frances were preparing to fly to South Dakota for a vacation at that time. John intended to rent one of his two planes to a couple and went up with them to ensure they understood the control panel when the plane hit some high line wires and the three of them perished in the fiery crash.

While living in California, Frances loved to do gardening, take care of her fruit trees and other plants around her yard. She loved people and to be around them. Eating out was another thing Frances loved to do often.

Frances returned to South Dakota in 1987 to live out her retirement and to be closer to her family. She resided in Sioux Falls until her death. She will be missed by those who knew her.

Frances was the sister to Benjamin Soukup, Sr. (1929 SDSD graduate), who passed away in 1964. She was also an aunt to two deaf nephews, Benjamin Soukup, Jr. (1969 SDSD graduate and David Soukup (1973 SDSD graduate) and

their families who currently reside in Sioux Falls. She was a special friend to Frank and Marlene Turk as well as to the late Marilyn Turk.

Frances is survived by many nieces and other nephews and cousins and their families as well as many friends.

A memorial service for Frances was held in the Peterson-Halladay Chapel at the Dow Rummel Village in Sioux Falls on Dec. 6, 2009.