



Mae Gregersen

May 15, 1925 - January 29, 2018

Mae Gregersen, 92, of Murphysboro, passed away at 3:53 p.m. Monday, January 29, 2018 at her residence in Murphysboro.

Mae was born on May 15, 1925, in Murphysboro, to Ernest Russell and Ethel (Etherton) Russell.

When she was a teenager, she was a member of a singing trio called the Three Sharps of Harmony. In high school, they travelled to Chicago and appeared on the Major Bowes Amateur Hour. The trio came in second on the show, to Myron Floren, who came in first. He was an accordionist, who would later become well known on the Lawrence Welk Show. Besides singing with in the trio, she would sing in the choir at church, and later in life would direct the choir.

She had worked at Lustour in Murphysboro. She married Charles "Chuck" Gregersen on February 8, 1944, in Murphysboro. Then she and Chuck moved to Lakewood, California, and lived there from 1957 to 1987. She worked in Long Beach, California as a receptionist for a Chiropractic Group.

They returned to Murphysboro, and were members of Christ Community Church. Mae sang in the choir for twenty five years. Chuck and Mae were married for seventy years and he preceded her in death on February 7, 2014.

She is survived by two children Karen Smith of Murphysboro and Chuck Gregersen and his wife Carol Gregersen of Huntington Beach, CA;

three grandchildren Donald Smith of Phoenix, AZ, Denise Caid of Glendale, AZ, Shelby Gregersen of Huntington Beach, CA;

four great grandchildren E. J. Smith, Rebecca Smith, Rachel Smith, and Hannah Smith of Huntsville, TX;

one brother James Russell of Moreno Valley, CA;

and three nephews Robert Fox of Murphysboro, Donald Fox of CA and Steve Russell of Yucaipa, CA.

She was preceded in death by one son in law Donald Smith, one grandson in law Jason Caid, two sisters Laura Fox and Wanda Russell, and her parents.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, February 3, 2018, at Pettett Funeral Home with Rev. Rick McNeely officiating. Visitation will be from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Christ Community Church.

Mr. Gregersen was cremated, when he passed away, and it was their wish to be buried together. Interment of both Mr. and Mrs. Gregersen will immediately follow the funeral services at Tower Grove Cemetery. For more information, please visit www.pettettfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Mae Gregersen

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ Karen & family,

Our thoughts and sincere prayers for all of you. We really loved and respected Chuck and Mae. To us in a younger generation they set a wonderful example of love, marriage and Christian people. We are thankful for that and the privilege to have known them. We were so excited when we came to visit at the church to see them. As we get ready to celebrate Valentine's Day we know they will get to be with each other again. Until our day comes Chuck and Mae, see you then.

*Love,
David & Jackie Conder*

David & Jackie Conder - February 03, 2018 at 11:51 AM

“ Remembering...

Posted on February 2, 2018

Few people would have used the word "quiet" to describe Mae Gregersen.

At least until the past few years, my memories of her are those of a lively, mischievous woman. Outspoken, to be certain, rather stubborn, and just a touch rebellious when it suited her.

Some of my earliest memories take place in her home - playing in the backyard under the orange tree, digging tiny rivers among the rose bushes. I remember music, and the color blue, and impatiently waiting for my turn in the single bathroom. One of the most distinct memories I have as a toddler was of her hysterical reaction when I borrowed her scissors to chop off my long, blonde curls. It was just slightly over the top - I may have inherited a bit of theatricality from her.

Grandma was demonstrative with her affection - just not always in a traditional way. Instead of hugs and kisses, she tended to sit next to you and smack you repeatedly on the leg when overcome with loving emotion. She loved to tease people she cared about, and was legendary for openly critiquing any facial hair or untraditional hairstyle.

I'll never forget my unfortunate prom date, who rode a bus 8 hours to get to me and bunked for the weekend in my grandparents' spare room. It was the late 80's, and his new wave hairstyle apparently occasioned some rather emphatic commentary. When asked how he was getting along with Grandma, the poor fellow blurted out "She's a fascist!" , which became something of an inside joke in the family afterwards.

In larger groups, Grandma was the life of the party - she blossomed with attention, flirted with the best of them, and laughed - oh, how she laughed.

I have missed her laughter the most over the last four years.

I know all too well how adrift she must have felt when Grandpa left us - how difficult it must have been for her to accept losing her best friend and constant companion after seventy years. It was hard enough after seven.

Her macular degeneration was another blow - losing the easy escape of burying herself in a book, seeing the world around her grow a little darker every day... no wonder her spark had faded. No wonder she grew... quiet.

But I will always remember her spark, and her laugh, and today I will think of her with that glow on her face as she has reunited with her love, regained her sight, and who knows - may even be teaching the angels to jitterbug.

*~ In memory of Mae Gregersen -
May 15, 1925 - January 29, 2018*

The funeral home's website did not accept the photos and background of the complete tribute.

*To view the complete tribute, copy and paste this in your browser:
<https://songstress7.wordpress.com/2018/02/02/rembering/>*

Mae's Granddaughter, Denise - February 02, 2018 at 07:44 PM

LR

“ So glad that Chuck and Mae are together again!
Our loss is God's gain.
Two great Christian people!
We are so sorry for the family, especially for Karen, and we know
that you did all you could do!
Lloyd and Gwen Roberts

Lloyd Roberts - February 02, 2018 at 07:21 PM

LP

“ Wonderful lady and precious couple, they will be missed. Karen and
family, we are so sorry for your loss...the world was a better place
while they were here, they were loved by so many. Hugs, love, and
prayers to all of you.

Larry and Mary Powell - January 31, 2018 at 01:24 PM