

Memoriam

Frances Glass

Oct. 1917-April 30, 2008

From Linelle Glass

A 65-year resident of Oakland, Frances Rose Farnell Glass passed away at the age of 90 on April 30, 2008. Born to Herbert Farnell and Dessie Zelia Skelton Farnell in October 1917, Frances



lived a tough but adventurous life in her early years which included the loss of Dessie when Frances was 8 years old. She lived in many places in California as well as in the wilds of Colorado and Idaho. Herbert, Frances and beloved brother, Sidney, finally settled in Lodi, CA where Frances worked full-time to support her family while completing high school at Lodi High. Frances was inspired by a high school business teacher and she won many typing awards. She was a cracker-jack secretary working at a young age as the Assistant Superintendent's secretary and, later, as the Financial Secretary for the Lodi Unified School District.

In 1942 Frances met Henry "Buzz" Glass when he hitch-hiked from San Francisco to Lodi to search for a teaching job during World War II. Despite stacks of applications, Frances saw something in the young man with a tattered sweater on a hot Lodi day. She called the Assistant Superintendent and he came to interview Buzz. Frances could hear the conversation through the partition as the administrator became more and more interested in Buzz's varied resume. He asked Frances to send for Buzz's papers. He got the job as a 5th grade teacher! Buzz subsequently started a social dance class which Frances joined and this soon turned into a folk dance class. Frances wrote, "This opened a whole, new world to me." Frances and Buzz had a lifelong interest in international folk dancing--dancing, teaching, choreographing dances and leading groups. In May 1942, Buzz, with Frances' business and organizational talents, invited folk dancers to come to Lodi where the Folk Dance Federation of California was formed. Buzz was the Federation's first president and Frances was its first secretary/ treasurer. 65 years later, the organization is still going strong. Buzz and Frances were also involved in square and round dancing later on and Frances supported Buzz's long and distinguished career in education and dance. They moved from Lodi to Oakland so that they could have more dance opportunities.

Married in a home in Lodi in December 1942, Buzz and Frances had a wonderful marriage for 65 years. A son, Terry David, was born in 1946 and daughter, Linelle Karen, followed in 1949. The "four Musketeers" enjoyed a wonderful, close family life with camping trips to the Sierras, car travel trips all over the west and across the U.S. and Canada and Bay Area adventures. They belonged to a family folk dance group, the Gateswingers.

In 1954-55, the Glass family lived in Mexico City where Buzz studied Mexican dance and folk culture on a Ford Foundation Fellowship. The family traveled to many regions of Mexico. Folk dance and folk music remain passionate interests of the Glass family and these interests have been passed on to Terry and Linelle, who have participated in many forms of dance and music, as have many other family members.

Frances worked in many capacities over the years for the Oakland Unified School District. She retired in 1976 as the principal's secretary at John Swett Elementary School, the same school her two children had attended. Family events, gatherings, her home life and travel kept Frances busy. Frances always had her "bags packed" and was raring to go on travel adventures. Her last, main adventure was a 90th birthday trip to the Disney Parks in Florida in December 2007.

Frances will forever be loved and remembered by all whose lives she touched. She had the rare quality of being a good listener and was truly interested in people and the world around her.

Frances was active in conservation causes early on and throughout her adult life. Animal rights and welfare were passionate causes for Frances. She and Linelle visited the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary for abused and abandoned animals of all kinds in Kanab, Utah and the family requests donations, for those who wish, in Frances's memory to that organization: Best Friends Animal Society, 5001 Angel Canyon Road, Kanab, Utah, 84741, www.bestfriends.org/atthesanctuary. Those wishing to reach the family may write in care of Linelle at lglass@sbsdk12.org or at the family home, 3732 Buell St. Oakland, CA 94619

No formal services were held. Published in the Bay Area News Group publication from 5/7/2008 - 5/9/2008.