

Getz Funeral Home

Oma May Warwick

(March 16, 1914 - February 22, 2011)

Oma May Haston Warwick 96 of Las Cruces, NM died Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at her home. She was born March 16, 1914 in Jester, Oklahoma to Zazara Artimus Haston and Nannie Denley Haston. She worked at Ascarte Elementary School and as a High School Counselor at Riverside High School in the Ysleta ISD in El Paso TX for 38 years. She became a Girl Scout in 1935 and remained an adult member until her death. She was the oldest member of the Girl Scouts in the USA. She was the Registrar of the Pine Springs Summer Camp working with her husband for 25 years. She was a member of the North Loop and Montwood Church of Christ. Oma was also a member of the Retired Teachers Association and United Daughters of the Confederacy and Daughters of the American Revolution. Beside their own children Glenn and Oma raised nine foster children. She is survived by her three daughters, Glyndolyn Nan Starr of T or C, NM; Oma Sue Bergstrom of Las Cruces, NM and Anita Kay Walker and her husband Michael of Berrien Springs, Michigan. Also surviving Oma are five grandchildren, J. Michael Starr, Nannette Diane Gurule, Timothy Allen Walker, Robert Haston Walker and Oma Cathryn Fister; 10 great grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and friends. Glenn and Oma also had surviving foster children, Rodolfo Rubio, Maria Rubio, Belkis Fernandez, Linda Blake, Monica Carral, Evelyn Miller, Heather Bridges and their children. Glenn C. Warwick her husband for 72 years and one foster child, Charlotte Molina preceded Oma in death.



Cremation has taken place and a celebration of Oma's life will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at the University Church of Christ, 1555 E. University, Las Cruces, NM. Officiating will be David Harrelson. A service for her friends in El Paso will be held at 2 pm Sunday, February 27, 2011 at the Montwood Church of Christ 11845 Bob Mitchell Dr El Paso, TX 79936. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to the Pine Spring Summer Camp, c/o University Church of Christ, 1555 E. University, Las Cruces, NM 88001

Adventures with Oma

Oma May Haston was born and spent her first years on a ranch in Jester Oklahoma. She started school at age 3 in a country one room school house. At six she went to live with her Aunt Lizzie in Mangum Oklahoma. Aunt Lizzie ran a boarding house and after 4 years Oma's father brought a duplex. Her father allowed a couple to live in one side rent free if they would take care of Oma who lived on the other side. She graduated from Mangum High School in 1928 at the ripe old age of 16. Her father's dream for her was to go to college. He selected Oklahoma College for Women because only girls attended there and they taught you to be a lady. This was during the great Depression so to have the funds for her to attend, he sold off some of his blooded stock and her Grandmother Haston gave her Confederate widow's pension of \$25 a month to Oma. She arrived at the college which was in Chickasha Oklahoma, in dresses made from the same pattern out of flour sacks. She walked and talked like the country girl she was. She had difficulty fitting in but God intervene and gave Oma Dr. Mason. Dr. Mason was the medical doctor for the college. She took Oma under her wing and made Oma her assistant. Oma learned from her not only first aid but how to dress, act and talk like a refined woman. One of the ways Oma helped support herself in college was to worked in the kitchen. Dinner was a semi-formal affair in which the women wore their Sunday best. Oma wore a smock to cook the food over her fancy dress and then took it off to sit down to eat. Oma was a very athletic. She majored in Health and Physical Education so she loved sports. She participated in volleyball, basketball, field hockey, track, tumbling and folk dancing. She took all the science classes available, most were the Life Sciences which gave her a more than her major required. She played the French horn and excelled in Latin. Her best friend was a tortoise which lived in her room. She graduated before she was 21 years old.

Mangum was in Greer County which was greatly affected by the Dust Bowl and the Depression. Oma was hired as a Case aide for the Federal Government. She was assigned to go out to the rural farms and ranches to see what aid was needed. To do this job she needed a car. Her father brought a used bright yellow roadster with green spokes and a rumble seat. Being a farm and ranching girl, the families in need accepted her and the help she offered where they had turned down others who had come to help because they were citified. One interest story was about a very proud man who would not accept CHARITY. He always referred to Oma as Mr. Haston because women didn't work for the government. One day when Oma arrived to try once again to give this family assistance, the children hadn't eaten in three days. Oma always carried food staples in her car. Oma explained to the man that the food stuff was brought with the tax money which he had already paid to the state. He refused because he still saw it as charity. His wife sent on of the children to the barn to get a health screwed tailed kitten. She offered to trade the kitten for the food. Oma agreed. The family got the food and Oma named the cat Mr. Haston.

In the winter of 1934, a friend of Oma talked her into a blind date. When the friend and gentlemen arrived at Oma's house, she can outside to greet them. The back door of the car opened and out climbed a 6'4" hunk called Glenn Warwick. Oma later told people that it was like her Prince Charming had arrived. During the date, things with the other couple didn't go well so they took Glenn and Oma to Oma's house. Oma got out her roaster and Glenn fell in love a second time. First with Oma then with the roadster. Glenn said that he knew from that day that Oma would be his wife. A day or two later Oma told her friend that she was going to married Glenn. Glenn always claimed December 2nd as his anniversary even though they were actually married on July 13, 1935. December 2nd was the day they met.

They started their marriage in the duplex where Oma lived. Next door was the Harbins. Mr. Harbin was a Church of Christ preacher. Oma was a Christian from her early years. Glenn wasn't. Mr. Harbin studied with Glenn and he was soon baptized. He and Oma faithfully attended church.

Even before they married, Oma helped support Glenn's family. Glenn's father was a near-do-well and his mother was the town's washer woman. The two youngest of seven were in desperate need of clothes. Glenn had quite school at 16 to work in a garage to support the family. One of the ways Oma helped the younger girls was to start a Girl Scout troop.

Early in 1940, Glenn was drafted to the Homefront because of his mechanical expertise with diesel engines and heavy machinery. The company who Glenn worked for was commissioned to build bases all over Texas, New Mexico and north to South Dakota. Oma also had a job to be the advanced person to locate gas and rooms for the crew. In war years this was not easy due to rationing and quotas. She also taught first aid, health care and money management to the wives of the crew. On the first job, Glenn was sent to Roswell, NM to build Walker Air Force base. Their first daughter, Glyndolyn Nan was born there. The church in Roswell was thrilled because Glenn now could be a deacon since he had children. Glenn worked for this company until early 1944, when he returned to Mangum Oklahoma to run the Haston Ranch. Being a city boy, it was a learning experience for them both but they did get a daughter, Oma Sue out of it.

The company offered Glenn a job back in Roswell as the shop foreman. He went to Roswell to check out the job and was offered a better job by a family member in El Paso, Texas. The Warwicks moved by trailer to El Paso in late 1945. They bought a small house in the lower valley just in time for daughter number three, Anita Kay to arrive. They began to attend North Loop Church of Christ.

One of Oma's most memorable experiences was being downtown shopping when she stepped off the curve and paralyzed from an old injury to the back. She couldn't move. Susie who was about three went up the block to get a policeman to help. He assisted her to the doctor's office where the doctor told her that she must wear a steel staved corset and must give up homemaking or be confined to a wheel chair. That began Oma's teaching career.

Oma taught Physical Education and Life Science at Ascarate Elementary School. She later became the assistant principal. Oma finally got prompted to high school after she completed her counseling degree. She also achieved an Educational Specialist degree in family counseling. She became a counselor at Riverside High School. This is where she worked until she retired after 37 years in education. For 21 Years, Oma taught 1st grade Sunday School and Vacation Bible School at North loop. Any child who grew up in the church had Oma as a teacher in their first years. She also led a Girl Scout troop. While she was a Scout leader she attended a world encampment in Ontario, Canada. She took girls to 4 National Round Ups and on two trips to the International camp, La Cabana south of Mexico City. She and Glenn took six traveling camping trip with her troop and worked on the Heritage Committee. At her death she was the oldest registered Girl Scout in the United States.

On Oma's retirement, she helped Glenn with the management and recruiting for Pine Springs Summer Camp. After the second fire, the camp built a dining room which was dedicated to Oma and Glenn. The worked 26 years for the camp.

In 1994, Oma and Glenn sold their home of 50 years in El Paso where they had raised three natural and six foster children. They moved to Las Cruces to live with Sue, Cathy and Jade. They lived there until Glenn death in 2007. After her stoke in the summer of 2007, she lived the rest of her life at the Heritage Assisted Living Home.