



Virginia Margaret Simpson Carey

Early Life

Virginia Margaret Simpson was born on January 28, 1911, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, while her father, Howard W. Simpson, was serving as the sixth superintendent of the South Dakota School for the Deaf (SDSD). As the only child of Howard and Stella Irene Rigby Simpson, she spent her early childhood on the SDSD campus, where Deaf education and public service shaped much of her family life.

Education and Career

Growing up in a family deeply connected to Deaf education, Virginia developed an interest in communication and education. She later earned a Master of Arts degree in English from Wichita State University and became an interpreter for the deaf, continuing the Simpson family's longstanding commitment to serving the Deaf community.

In addition to her professional work, Virginia was active in civic organizations, including the Junior League of Wichita and the Wichita Country Club, participating in community and charitable activities throughout her adult life.

Marriage and Family

On January 20, 1944, Virginia married Carl Edwin ("Bud") Carey, a United States Army officer, in Beverly Hills, California, during World War II. After the war, the couple settled in Wichita, Kansas, where Carl became a partner in Consumers Acceptance Company.

They had one son, John Rigby Carey, who later had two daughters, Courtney Carey Hohl and Shannon Carey, continuing the Simpson family lineage into a fourth generation.

Later Life

Virginia remained committed to education and service throughout her life. Like her parents, she maintained close ties to the Deaf community through her work as an interpreter. Following Carl Carey's death in 1989, she continued living in Wichita, where she remained active in community organizations. Virginia Margaret Simpson Carey died on November 9, 1999, at the age of 88. In keeping with her lifelong dedication to Deaf education, memorial contributions were directed to the Wichita State University Interpreters for the Deaf Program, reflecting a lifetime devoted to improving communication and opportunities for Deaf individuals.

Legacy

Although Virginia never served at the South Dakota School for the Deaf as her parents did, she carried the Simpson family's tradition of service into a third generation. Through her work as an interpreter for the deaf, her educational achievements, and her support of community organizations, she continued the family's enduring commitment to Deaf education and public service well into the late twentieth century.