

Sylvia Grace Miller Sylliaasen

February 25, 1907 – September 24, 1998

Sylvia Sylliaasen didn't let deafness interfere with her love for singing, dancing and socializing.

"I always felt she accepted it quite well. She enjoyed life and her friends," said her daughter Wanita Hayne of Valley Springs.

Sylvia Grace Sylliaasen, 91, of 2900 S. Lake Ave., died Thursday, Sept. 24, 1998, in Good Samaritan Luther Manor.

Mrs. Sylliaasen enjoyed singing through sign language as member of the church choir at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf.

Years ago, Mrs. Sylliaasen enjoyed going ot dance halls in Sioux Falls. The Music was loud enough so she can feel the vibrations, her daughter said.

Although Mrs. Sylliaasen and her husband were both deaf, none of their children are.

"Mom and dad were both huggers," Wanita Hayne said, "You could always tell they were happy to see you when they came home."



Wanita Haynes said her mother was very patient with those who couldn't communicate with her.

"My mother never learned to read lips. People would talk to her and she'd smile her sweet smile and shake her head as if she could understand them."

When Mrs. Sylliaasen entered the nursing home, she taught the staff a few signs.

She enjoyed making pillowcases and crocheting afghans to give as gifts. She often embroidered the pillowcase, trimming them with her crochet work.

Mrs. Sylliaasen loved animals and relied on her dogs Pete and Scotty to alert her when someone was knocking at the door.

Sylvia Grace Miller was born Feb. 25, 1907, on a farm near Herrick, S.D. She received her education at South Dakota School for the Deaf.

She married Guy T. Sylliaasen on Nov. 21, 1925, in Yankton. They lived on a farm near Winner and later moved to Yankton. In 1942, they moved to Sioux Falls, where she worked at the Cataract Hotel as a chambermaid for many years. In ther 1970s the couple moved to Valley Springs, where they lived for 20 years.

Her husband died Feb. 8, 1987. She returned to Sioux Falls, moving to the Good Samaritan Luther Manor in 1997.

She was a member of trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, where she was active in Ladies Aid and other women's groups. She also was a member of the Deaf Club.

In addition to her daughter, survivors include two sons: Guy of Sioux Falls and Kenneth of Brandon; two other daughters: Jeannette Thompson of Brandon and Shirley Story of Tacoma, Wash.; 16 grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

Visitation held at George Boom Home. Services held at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, with burial in Pleasant View Cemetery, Valley Springs.