

MILLER



Helen Wheeler Miller was 98 years old, verging on 99. Born February 3rd, 1913 in Arkadelphia, Arkansas

to Harry Edgar Wheeler and Helen Girault Gamble, she had three brothers (Robert, James, and Elwin) and a sister (Mabel), all deceased. As a child, she moved to Conway, Arkansas, a town she loved for its three colleges, where her father was pastor of the Methodist Church. She moved to El Paso, Texas for her senior year at El Paso High School, then attended the Texas College of Mines (now UTEP). She taught 4th grade at Alamo Grade School in Zavala before marrying L. A. Miller in 1935 (now deceased; then owner of The Hitching Post Gas Station on Mesa). The marriage was held at St. Clements Episcopal Church, which she attended all her life.

A talented musician, she played violin with El Paso's first symphony association, under direction of H. Arthur Brown, until her grandfather's violin was stolen. She studied piano under Claude Herndon and was accepted in the MacDowell Club, where she was a ferocious player of Beethoven sonatas. She was also active in civic work, the Red Cross, Grey Nurse, and was a member of the DAR and was an avid gardener.

She had a lifelong love of learning, attending classes at UTEP over a period of almost 40 years, concentrating on French and English courses, and was popular with the professors for her scholarship and

with her classmates for her mentoring. A Francophile, she and a few friends also had private tutoring in French for a number of years and she translated into English for private publication the French memoirs of a hydraulic engineer who worked to develop the Belgian Congo around 1875. She also traveled a number of times to France, the last time in 2007 with her son and granddaughter. She was a voracious reader and spoke creative Spanish.

She is survived by her son, Lance A. Miller, computer scientist and writer, who resides in Washington, DC, her granddaughter, Kate Miller, who lives in Middletown, Connecticut with her husband, Bob Reutenauer, and their two children (Ms. Miller's great-grandchildren) Ryan and Gwyn. Her grandson, Scott Miller, lives in Portland, ME and is attending the University of Maine in Sociology. Additional family members include her nephew Henry Wheeler, who lives near Austin, TX, and two nieces by her sister, Helen and Shirley Ramsey, who live in Southern California

She was known for her sly sense of humor and her grace, modesty, and elegance. She was dearly loved by many of all ages, particularly the children in her neighborhoods and in her son's schools. A memorial service will be held on April 14, 2012 at 1:00 pm at the Church of St. Clement in the McKey Chapel, 810 Campbell St., with a scattering service to follow. www.FunerariaDelAngelHarding.com.

