

PRESTWOOD



Laura Nadine Prestwood passed away peacefully on March 30th at the age of 96. The daughter of John and Beulah (Hagood) Hale, Nadine was born in Sherman, Texas in 1914. Her family moved to El Paso when she was a very young child. In 1938 Nadine married Hugh Loring Prestwood. They had two children, son Hugh Jr. and daughter Marvyn. Nadine earned a Masters Degree in history from the University of Texas El Paso in 1949. Her Master's thesis - "The Social Life and Customs of the People of El Paso 1848 - 1910" is considered a valuable resource for historians interested in early El Paso, Juarez, and West Texas. In the 1950's Nadine began teaching for the El Paso Independent School District, eventually becoming a guidance counselor at several schools, including Ross Middle School and Jefferson High School. During this period she earned another Masters Degree from UTEP in guidance & counseling. In 1965 she began teaching Educational Psychology at the University of Texas at El Paso. By all accounts Nadine was an extraordinary and inspiring professor, touching many lives with her intelligence, dedication, and enthusiasm. Upon retiring from UTEP in 1986 she became the director of the Mary L. Peyton Foundation, a charitable organization which provides aid to needy El Pasoans. Remaining involved with the university, she served as a member of UTEP's Heritage Commission, and was a member of the Board of the Women's Department of the Chamber of Commerce. Equal to her educational accomplishments was her loving devotion to her two children, four grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Both Hugh Jr. and Marvyn distinguished themselves; Marvyn as an educator - retiring as Principal of Bel Air High School in 2010 -- and Hugh as a songwriter, inducted into the Nashville Songwriter's Hall of Fame in 2006. Nadine is survived by son Hugh Prestwood Jr.; daughter-in-law Judy Ahrens; grandchildren Brian Prestwood, Jennifer Bustillos, Laura Porter and Lea Davis, and great-grandchildren Brett and Brannon Prestwood, Adyson and Andrew

Bustillos, Griffin and Jonah Davis, and Hayden and Mason Porter. A family memorial will be held at a later date. On the occasion of her 90th birthday Hugh composed a song, "Laura Nadine", the lyrics of which are printed below:

Laura Nadine, the snow's whitening out
all our crimes
With soft feathered flakes, the sizes
of nickels and dimes
And when I look back at us through
that veil of white lace
All I see is perfection and uncommon
grace under fire
Fire we were caught between
Don't it sweeten the sorrow we've
seen, Laura Nadine
Laura Nadine, let's let go of all those
regrets
I've learned from you just how fast
forgiveness forgets
All our stumbles and scratches, all
our cuts that don't show
They've been all washed away like
red clay in the snowmelt of tears
Washed away clean
Don't our bodies have a newborn
sheen, Laura Nadine
We are always falling
We are always rising up out of the
river
Back into the stardust we were
Laura Nadine, what will I do when
you're gone
Now don't you tell me that my life
will just carry on
I'll have no one to tell me that I hung
the moon
I'll have nobody dancing to my
different tune with such joy
You are my queen
And for all the hard winters we've
seen
Your heart's never outgrown sweet
sixteen, Laura Nadine

She will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her sweetness, her joy, and her always bright-shining, inquisitive mind.

People wishing to make charitable donations on behalf of Laura Nadine Prestwood are requested to send them to the University of Texas El Paso.

