



Eleanor Olander

June 8, 2008

Eleanor M. Olander, 97, of Fort Collins, died June 8, 2008 at a local health care center. Mrs. Olander was born October 29, 1910 in West Plains, Missouri to Marvin Althouse and Inez Vandebark Althouse.

Eleanor married Emil, GÇ£LeftyGÇ¥, Olander on September 23, 1933 in Kimball, Nebraska. Eleanor began her teaching career in 1951 at Harmony School. In 1952, she joined the Fort Collins Public School District #5 as one of the districtGÇÖs first two elementary physical education teachers. In her first year she pioneered the districtGÇÖs elementary physical education program, traveling among several schools. Since that time, this program has developed into the current K-6 Physical Education Program present in all elementary schools in the Poudre School District. In 1961, Mrs. Olander began teaching sixth grade at Bennett Elementary School, the year it opened. She continued in that role until her retirement in 1975. Eleanor helped organize the districtGÇÖs first elementary Science Fair, which continues now in the district. She also implemented the Poudre School District Elementary School Track Meet which still exists today as the Manuel Cordova Memorial Track Meet. In 1990 Olander Elementary School was named in honor of Eleanor and Lefty. Survivors include her three sons, Ed Olander and wife, Karen, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; John Olander and wife, Barbara, of Ft. Collins; and Jim Olander and wife, Pat, of San Diego, California; a daughter, Dee Dee Fulton and husband, Russ, of Ft. Collins, 11 grandchildren, and 26 great-grandchildren Preceding Eleanor in death is her husband, Lefty. A Memorial

Service will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 531 S. College, on Friday at 2:30 p.m. A Private Interment will be held at Grandview Cemetery. Rev. Rich McDermott will officiate at the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Poudre School District Foundation in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Ft. Collins, CO 80524. Friends may send condolences to the family at bohlenderfuneralchapel.com.