



Helen Claire Leonard McClure

December 27, 1915 - July 10, 2009

Helen Claire Leonard McClure, born Dec. 27, 1915, in Bartlett, Iowa, died July 10, 2009, in Fort Collins, Colorado. Helen spent her early years in Bartlett and Tabor, Iowa. After graduating from high school, she moved to Lincoln, NE, attended business school and worked as a secretary before and after raising her daughters. She married L.E. "Mac" McClure in 1936. In 1948 they moved to Fort Collins, Colorado. They were delighted to be in Colorado and immediately began exploring the mountains where they spent many happy days hiking and camping with their two daughters. Family was always very important to Helen. She grew up with a large extended family of cousins, aunts and uncles; she enjoyed family reunions and she produced a family newsletter for many years. Her own family was the center of her life. She was an accomplished seamstress and was much involved in her girls' activities, including Girl Scouts as a leader, piano lessons, PTA and other school activities. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, canning, sewing, reading, walking, hiking, camping, and traveling. She was active in and did volunteer work at church and at the city library, and loved her involvement in P.E.O., promoting women's education. She had a strong interest in English history, geography, American History, local history and current events. She also expressed her love of family through genealogy and compiling valuable family records. In 1958 she started working as a secretary for the Geology Department at Colorado State University. She loved her position there and they loved her for her ready smile, her expertise and helpfulness. She worked with the

department for 21 years and made many life time friends. After retirement in 1979 she enjoyed being available to spend time with her four grandchildren, their beloved Gramie. She and Mac enjoyed having time to travel. They traveled to many National Parks and other points in the US, but their favorite trips were to England and Scotland. She is survived by two daughters, Marcia Boggs and Jean Weibel Allmaras and Herman; four grandchildren, Tim Weibel and Stephanie, Amy Williamson and Steve, Ryan Boggs and Sjani, Lara Arledge and Shawn; six great grandchildren, Jake and Haley Williamson, Emily and Lauren Weibel, Sullivan and Cooper Arledge; and Ryan and Sjani's baby who is expected in January. Also surviving is one sister, Ruth and Wayne Erickson and other family, Paul Weibel and Lloyd Boggs. Preceding her in death were her husband, L.E. "Mac" McClure 1990, her brother, Walter Leonard; and sister, Betty June Wilson. A memorial service will be held on Monday, July 20, 2009, 10:00am, at Foothills Unitarian Church, 1815 Yorktown Avenue, Fort Collins. The Reverend Robert A. Geller will officiate. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Poudre River Public Library District or to P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Ft. Collins, CO 80524. We honor and thank her, our Family Matriarch, for her abundant love for each of us.

Tribute Wall

TM

“ Was sorry to hear of your Mother's passing. She was such a nifty lady and I have such fond memories of her since coming to Ft. Collins as a new bride in 1963. She always amazed me that she could do all she did for the geologists. Whenever I went to the dept. she would turn off the typewriter, get up and come around the desk to visit. She was always gracious and friendly and completely organized. Lucky geologists! Please accept my belated sympathy for your loss. She loved her family and friends and we all loved her. Fondly, Tia McCallum

Tia McCallum - July 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ Helen was Bob's secretary in the old Geology Dept. from 1968 after Scott Creely left until the formation of the Earth Resources Dept. . She was the Best secretary one could ever want. She was a good friend of mine and a confidant that every dept. head needs. Every student was important to her. Her capacity for work was amazing and always appreciated. She made the dept. run. After our dept. joined the Earth Resources Dept. she had to work under difficult conditions as the new head secretary made it difficult because of her feeling that SHE was the head sec'y. During this time I became Acting Head for a couple of years and was careful to let Helen know she was still the best and to smooth out any ruffled feathers, so to speak. She was a dear person loved by my wife, Garnet and myself. We remember being at her 90th birthday party, a joyful time.

Bob and Garnet Johnson - July 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

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Bob and Garnet Johnson - July 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Dear Marcia, We are so sorry to hear of your mothers passing. You and all your family our in our thoughts. Jenny Harding and Bev Williams

Jenny and Bev - July 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EW

“ My heart goes out to you all. Helen was SUCH a special person -- so loving, kind, generous, fascinating and caring. I remember with great fondness the many conversations and lovely cups of tea. She lives on in her daughters and grandchildren. It also brings back Mac --and what a wonderful person he was too. I am SO happy that they had there many trips together -- esp to England. With love to all, Ellie

Ellen Willis - July 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I wish to extend my sincere condolences to Marcia, Jean and their families. I too will miss Helen very much. She was a superb secretary during all her years with the Geology Department, and throughout that time and thereafter was a wonderful friend. Her ever present smile will always remain with me. As the junior member of the department in the early 1960s, I was very fortunate to have this lovely lady as the overseer of the central office. She taught me the ropes of departmental operations and politics, and somehow managed to keep me almost on the straight and narrow. Her efforts on my behalf in typing my dissertation and various manuscripts, well before the days of desk and laptops, were monumental. For all of these efforts along with her efficient and friendly handling of all office needs and for her continuously upbeat attitude in every situation, I will be eternally grateful. She was one of my very favorite people and I will miss her always.

Malcolm McCallum - July 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ *Geology students and faculty at CSU could not have asked for a better secretary. Any employer would have hired her. I wish all secretaries were like Helen. Many have a lot to be desired. Helen McClure sets the standard. Always as helpful as possible. Never a harsh word or a bad day for her in my time at CSU.*

Geology Student - July 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ *Helen's smiling face and caring approach greeted me almost daily at the Geology Department where she was the secretary. She was a constant, positive force in a young student's life. We all loved her, and never forgot her.*

Howard Coopersmith - July 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *We will always remember Gramie Helen, for her love of family, raspberries and Mac. I know she's now with her beloved Mac, and is hiking in the mountains.....she holds a special place in our hearts. She was so happy when Callie was born in 1991, and I knew if I needed any help with this new person, Gramie Helen would be there to help, or give advice. She was invaluable on numerous occasions. I'll always hold a picture of her in her kitchen, or sitting in her front room, always ready to hold that baby! We hated to leave FC, but duty called.....I am glad she had other babies to hold, and care for. We'll miss her, but will treasure our memories.... Eliza, John and Callie Schmidt*

Eliza H. Schmidt - July 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Condolence on the loss of a wonderful lady. She was a great friend to students at CSU right from her start as Geology Dept. secretary and to all students through her library work. Jim Meiman, Prof Emeritus, Watershed*

Jim and Louise Meiman - July 16, 2009 at 12:00 AM