



Lois Powers

May 18, 1919 - March 5, 2016

Lois Maxine (Madsen) Powers, age 96, of Okoboji, Iowa passed away March 5, 2016 of natural causes at home surrounded by her family.

Lois Maxine Madsen was born on May 18th, 1919 to Tora (Rouse) Madsen and Harry James Madsen on their farm in northwest Iowa. She had one older sister Neva Madsen Swan. Lois was very busy as a child doing all the daily chores on the farm, riding horses, loving her pets, harvesting all of the garden vegetables and fruits, practicing her piano, working on 4-H projects and studying. She was very involved in 4-H, earning many awards, even going to Washington D.C. as the Iowa State representative for 4-H.

She then went on to Iowa State University, joining the Delta Zeta sorority, graduating in 1941 with a degree in Journalism. Graduation from ISU was one of her proudest moments. She immediately headed to Chicago, IL. and in one week started writing for the Chicago Daily News. She had a weekly column, under a pen name in the home and cooking section. She was a column writer from 1941-1943. She continued to be a columnist in the Sioux City Diocesan paper for over 16 years after moving back to Iowa.

Soon after moving to Chicago, Lois met John "Jack" Lewis Powers on a blind date under the clock at Marshall Fields. They married on June 8, 1942 in Chicago, IL. Jack was then sent off to use his medical skills in WW II, so Lois

and baby John moved back to the family farm until Jack safely returned. She taught at the Lake Center township school during this time.

Following WWII Lois, Jack, and John moved to Fort Wayne, IN, where Jack worked on his surgical training. The family then moved to Estherville, IA, where they raised John, Madeline, Jim, Ann, Steve and Susie until 1980. Their home was always filled with the smells of food cooking, children practicing the piano, flute, and trumpet, kids studying and plenty of laughter. Lois spent a great deal of time in her tiny kitchen preparing meals for eight, where the family always sat around the table, prayed and then shared our days' activities.

Lois was very busy in Estherville. She was a Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader for over ten years. She was an active member in her investment club and bridge club. She supported many events at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. She organized and managed a classical concert series for years. She and Jack were instrumental in getting the Estherville Winter Sports Festival off the ground. She never missed her children's many activities which included: band and choir concerts, musicals, ski races, wrestling matches, track meets, and a variety of other events to name just a few.

In the summers she would load up the "Woody" station wagon and move all of the family as well as the family dog over to the cottage at Lake Okoboji. At the lake, she continued to be involved in the local community and supporting all of the family activities. She was a founding member of the Lakes Art Center. She was an active member of the Okoboji Yacht Club, often running the registration desk for the many regattas. She and Jack and friends set and ran the Wednesday 5pm series of races for years. She watched 1000's of sailboat races, either driving the boat or watching from the bench on the point. She always had kind words to cheer us up after a rough day on the water, warm hot chocolate after cold, windy races and a full lunch waiting.

Lois was a naturalist, a historian, a gardener, a bird watcher, an avid Iowa State fan, a quilter and painter, a well-informed political observer and an amateur weather reporter. All who visited her loved to see and discuss her bird activity, her arrowhead collection and all of her flowers in her garden. She may have grown up on a farm, but she never gave up her farm duties. She was an astute grain marketer and an aware farm manager into her final year. She took great pride in all of these activities.

Nonnie was very proud of her twelve grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. She often read to them or told them tales of bunnies and other things in nature. She made every one of them their own "Nonnie blanket." These were hand sewn personal quilts that all the children still find comfort in.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents, Tora and Harry Madsen, her sister, Neva, her husband, Dr. John L. Powers II, her son, John Lewis Powers III, her daughter, Ann Powers Oakley, her granddaughter, Nicole Anne Powers and her niece, Jean Swan Wyatt.

She is survived by her children, Madeline Powers Beery (Bill), James Harry Powers (Cyndy), Dr. Steven Powers (Marian) and Susan Powers Brantley (Wade). She also has 12 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

In summary, Lois was an amazing woman and will be greatly missed by all. She certainly lived every day of her life to the fullest. She truly filled the "dash" 1919-2016 with love and light for all.

Lois wanted to be sure and thank all of her family, friends, neighbors, and care takers for all of their love and support over the years.

At Lois' request donations can be made in her name to: St. Mary's Catholic Church, the Dickinson County Nature Center (dickinsoncountyconversationboard.com) or the Lakes Area Dog Park (lakesareadogpark.com)

A Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, March 11, 2016 at 10:30 A.M., at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Spirit Lake, Iowa. Visitation and viewing time will be that morning at 9:30 A.M. All are invited to join the family afterwards for lunch at the church.

A Celebration of her Life will be Friday, May 13th from 4-7pm at her home. We encourage all to come and share stories in our celebration at that time.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ I'm so sorry to learn of Lois' passing. I have many fond memories of your mom & dad from Arizona. My parents (the Kopp's) were right next door. Lois and Jack were always so kind when we'd come to visit They showed great interest in us and our children. And, Lois always had a treat to share with the kids. I last spoke with Lois in October when my mother passed away. She sounded terrific and was as sharp as ever. Again, my sincere condolences on your mother's passing. She was a dear.

Jane Kopp Bockstruck - May 17, 2016 at 03:36 PM

MD

“ Lois Powers

Mary k donovan - May 12, 2016 at 08:36 PM

LI

“ I was privileged to be a caregiver for Lois for a few months. She was a delightful person and so fun to be with. Thanks Lois

Linda - March 24, 2016 at 06:24 PM

BL

“ Jack and Lois were very good friends of my parents, Doc and Mary Grimm. Many happy memories of the neighborhood kids playing in the 1950's on and off 6th St., and the parents parties. A great group of people and so many have now passed but the pictures and memories are so wonderful. My best to all the Powers from Barb Grimm Larson who appreciates Lois for the remarkable woman she was and a great friend to my mom. Great memories of our parents help the process of our loss. My best to you all. Barb

Barb Grimm Larson - March 20, 2016 at 06:46 PM

SB

“ *Lois Powers*

Stephen Bennett - March 12, 2016 at 03:25 AM

KR

“ *TO THE POWERS FAMILIES: I WAS SO BLESSED TO HAVE GOTTEN TO KNOW YOUR MOM AND NONNIE OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. SHE TAUGHT ME SOMETHING NEW EVERY TIME I WAS THERE. SHE WAS A WEALTH OF INFORMATION. SHE WILL TRULY BE MISSED BY SO MANY PEOPLE. MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT THE THE WHOLE FAMILY. I HOPE TO SEE YOU IN MAY.*

Karil Richards - March 11, 2016 at 06:03 PM

KM

“ *Dear Susie and Family,*

So very sorry for your loss! I loved reading Lois' biography, it is so warm and vital. Hope the many happy memories carry you through this transition.

*Karen and Stein Sture
Boulder, CO*

Karen Marley-Sture - March 11, 2016 at 02:05 PM

JG

“ *Lois Powers*

Jacque Schwartz and Stuart Gerhold - March 10, 2016 at 06:52 PM

BT

“ *Lois Powers*

Becky Thoreson - March 10, 2016 at 06:50 PM

AG

“ *Lois Powers*

Anne Glynn - March 10, 2016 at 11:20 AM

JE

“ *Lois Powers*

Jeani Eich - March 09, 2016 at 05:43 PM

WA

“ *Steve, so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. What a sweet lady .I was really privileged to help build the house she and dad were so proud of.*

Wayne Anderson - March 08, 2016 at 08:08 PM

HA

“ *I met Lois many times when she was with Tootie in Chinese restaurant, or at Tootie and Steven's home, Lois was a beautiful, wise and sense humor lady! she yelled loudly when Michael and Kira were dating, and on their way to Menards buying material for remodeling " get along"! 2 kids' were laughing and drove away!!! miss you and love you Lois*

Helen Alexander - March 08, 2016 at 02:11 PM

NB

“ *Lois Powers*

Naomi Brantley - March 08, 2016 at 12:42 PM

BS

“ *Lois Powers*

Barb Stineman - March 08, 2016 at 09:26 AM

KR

“ *Lois Powers*

Karen Riley - March 08, 2016 at 06:44 AM

CS

“ *Lois Powers*

Chad Schuchert - March 07, 2016 at 08:07 PM

RN

“ *Doc and Tootie and families of, we are so sorry for your loss. Prayers are with you as you celebrate a great women.*

Rhonda and Dave Nelson - March 07, 2016 at 04:34 PM

RN

“ *Lois Powers*

Rhonda and David Nelson - March 07, 2016 at 04:31 PM

AM

“ *Sorry to hear about Lois. She was my oldest living cousin. Our families were very close when I was growing up. Our mothers were sisters and talked on the telephone to each other every day.*

Arlene McMillin - March 07, 2016 at 01:48 PM

T.

“ *Lois Powers*

T.R.Brantley - March 07, 2016 at 12:04 PM

SS

“ Jim and family, we are so sorry to hear of the loss of your Mother. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. May you be comforted by love of family, friends, faith and wonderful memories. Sincerely, your ConvergeOne team.

Steve, Mark, John, Lisa, Lee, Sandy - March 07, 2016 at 09:45 AM

MC

“ Lois was a very kind and gentle person, she made an impact on each and everyone of us. She holds a special place in our hearts, and will truly be missed.

Mary and the staff at Home Instead Senior Care - March 06, 2016 at 04:48 PM

MU

“ So sorry for you loss.... I have known Lois for many years as I grew up about 2 blocks from their home in Estherville.... When Doc retired she told me that now she thought that everyone would call her Lois and not the wife of Dr. Powers. One day she was introduced to someone and they said This is Dr. Powers Mother.... so she said she still was not Lois... She was a great Lady....

Marlys and John Unrau - March 06, 2016 at 11:30 AM

DF

“ Steve-Sorry to read about the loss of your mother.

Dick and Sue Fischer - March 06, 2016 at 09:54 AM