

SUTTER CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GETTING TO KNOW YOU ... Myra Lawrence

Myra Lawrence was born in Pulaski County, Virginia, on July 2, 1911, the youngest of four siblings – one brother and three sisters. Her older sisters always called her “Baby Sister.” Because she was the youngest, she spent much time alone while her older sisters were with their own friends. As a result, Myra says she had imaginary friends.

Myra began taking classes at Radford University during the summer session when she was fifteen. Then, after graduating from high school, she attended Radford University where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Education. She chose this profession because she was inspired by her high school and college teachers. Myra was a teacher for 75 years! She taught school in seven different states. For 22 years she taught English as a Second Language in Texas, near the Mexican border. Her last ten years of teaching were done as a volunteer at Jackson Elementary School. She retired at the young age of 95. In 2010 Myra took a trip to her childhood home with her son and visited Radford University which was celebrating its centennial anniversary.

Myra’s husband, Wilmer, was known as “Bus” because his mother thought he looked like Buster Brown. Myra and Wilmer attended the same high school but did not date because Wilmer did not have a car. He received a football scholarship to the University of Virginia and contacted Myra when they were both seniors in college. Myra and Wilmer married and had three children – two sons and a daughter. One son, Barry, is still living.

Myra enjoys reading and belongs to two different book groups. She has always enjoyed organizing children’s birthday parties for friends. From the age of five, Myra has been a storyteller and reader of poems. Her mother used to teach her poems. Myra’s favorite vacation was a trip to Ireland with a good friend. She was impressed by the openness of the Irish people and the fact that they never frowned. She also found them to be wonderful storytellers! She said that everywhere in Ireland she heard the song “Forty Shades of Green.”

The funniest thing that ever happened to Myra was the time she was in a large store, standing near a platform. She saw beautiful dresses being displayed on what she thought were mannequins. She reached up to touch the hem of one of the dresses and was shocked when it moved – it was a real person! Myra’s advice based on what she has learned in life is that life can be satisfying. Her favorite saying is “love the Creator and the creation.” Everyone can be content wherever God has placed them.

Myra moved to Amador County because her granddaughter, Susan, lives in Pine Grove. She also believed that California had the best schools in the country and was looking forward to volunteering in some of them. Today she would feel differently about California schools.

Myra will have a birthday celebration with her extended family in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Happy Birthday, Myra, for 100 years of fulfilling life from AAUW!