

Barbara McLaren, 70

April 14, 1934 - Sept. 21, 2004



SEATTLE, WA — Barbara Jean Olson was born April 14, 1934, in Harlan, the youngest of nine children born to Grace Adams and Ernest Olson. She graduated from Harlan High School and the Radio and Television Institute in Omaha, NE. Dreaming of world travel led Barbara to New York City with Pan American World Airways. She soon moved to Minneapolis where she began her long career as a volunteer, working as a Gray Lady for the Red Cross. In the late 1950's, she moved to Chicago to join United Airlines as a stewardess. There she continued her volunteer work with children at Cook County Hospital. In 1958, she moved to Seattle with her UAL roommates. While in Seattle, she volunteered to be on the inaugural Jet Press Flight to San Francisco. She eventually transferred back to Pan American as a stewardess, flying to Alaska and to the South Pacific; Fiji being her favorite destination. Upon her retirement, she had earned the status of Purser. In Seattle she continued her volunteerism work for the Altar Guild of Epiphany Parish, for Epiphany School, for Lakeside School and for the Broadmoor-Washington Park Guild of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the latter of which Barbara was a founding member over 25 years ago.

Barbara met her husband, Earl McLaren, on a blind date and they were married in 1964. She was active in the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center Guild, the Altar Guild and Wedding Committee for Epiphany Parish, the Sunset Club and the Seattle Tennis Club. She died Sept. 21, 2004, at age 70.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Grace and Ernest Olson; her two infant sisters, Norma Jean and Lucille, as well as her sister, Betty Erickson. In addition to her husband, Earl, survivors include her two daughters, Marianne Grace McLaren Mowat (Mark) and Nancy Jean McLaren and grandchildren, Haley, Mac and Lucie Mowat; her stepson, Gordon (LeeAnn) McLaren and their children, David (Melanie), Jennifer and Michael McLaren; siblings: Arlene Blackburn of Sterling, CO; Edwin (Wilma) Olson and Alfred Olson of Harlan; Jane Fuller of Minneapolis, MN; Marilyn (Merlin) Meier of Lancaster, CA; and nieces and nephews.

A Memorial and Celebration of Barbara's life was held Sept. 28, 2004, at the Church of the Epiphany in Seattle, WA, with The Reverend Daniel G. Conklin officiating.