



Constance (Connie) C. Wagner

September 24, 1915 - April 3, 2013

M

rs. Constance Christina Goeke Wagner, age 97, passed away Wednesday April 3, 2013 at the Nazareth Living Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

Connie, Sis, Mom, Grandma, Great Grandma, and Great Great Grandma was born in St. Louis on September 24, 1915 to Joseph and Elizabeth Winkeler Goeke, the second of nine children. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Clarence Wagner, brother John Goeke, sisters Henrietta Goeke Becker, Virginia Goeke Knoke, Rita Goeke Grab, youngest brother Eugene Goeke, and daughter Mary Wagner. Connie is survived by sisters Aurelia Goeke Ehlers of Imperial, MO and Helen Goeke Mayer of Arnold, MO, brother Carl Goeke of St. Louis, MO, and her children: Elizabeth Wagner Ziegler, Clarence Wagner, Phillip Wagner, Margaret Wagner Huskey, Dianne Wagner Swindon, Anita Wagner Rickett, and Annette Wagner LaMora. She is also survived by her thirteen grandchildren, thirty-six great grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and other assorted relatives.

They were a hardworking farm family, although they never owned any farmland - yep, it was kind of like Grapes of Wrath in St. Louis and Jefferson

Counties. The kids did chores before school and after school, and they ate meals from everything that grew from the ground or came from the farm animals. Including many pancakes.

Connie attended St. Andrews elementary school, where she drank coffee instead of milk because it was cheaper. It's not a practice she recommends to any of her grandchildren or great-grandchildren. After graduation she babysat two bratty boys for 50 cents a day while continuing the farm chores. Later she became a live-in housekeeper for a well-to-do family in south St. Louis. She cleaned the massive house, made lunch for 18 employees of the packing house (sometimes half-inch steaks!), doled out shrimp cocktails every night, plus delivered cake and tea for the Ladies' afternoon bridge club. Connie did miss life in "the country," and everyone ran to see "Sis" when she came home. At one point, she had three suitors who were best friends. Clarence Adam Wagner and his two other buddies had a boxing match on the day of his first date with Connie " he showed up with a black eye (partially concealed by his sister's makeup) later that evening. Connie claims she "fell for him right then and there." They were married at Immaculate Conception church in Arnold on November 28, 1936.

They began married life in South St. Louis before moving to a two-family flat on Michigan Avenue in St. Louis. Clarence held many jobs and they welcomed their first child, Betty Ann. Sorrow came when the second daughter, Mary, died four hours after birth from hydrocephalus; Connie never stopped grieving for her. Clarence (Clank) and Phil were born after the family moved to St. Louis County. World War II called Clarence to boot camp in Portland, Oregon in the summer of 1944. The letters and postcards back and forth were numerous and humorous, but Connie felt that the family needed to be together. She packed up the two children and baby and took the Pullman train

to Portland, something which amazes the grandkids today. Luckily, the war ended shortly before Clarence was to be shipped out, and they all moved back home, where a series of coincidences led them to Goldman, MO in 1946 and the only general store/feed and tack/tavern/gas station for miles. At "The Store," Connie and Clarence welcomed four more daughters, Margaret, Dianne, Anita, and Annette. Connie ran the store by herself while Clarence went to the city to sell and buy goods. She worked hard, carrying 50-100 pound bags of feed and 50-100 pound blocks of ice for customers, along with raising ponies, sheep, and chickens. The tavern out back was open all day, and she also pumped gas.

In 1959, they bought 111 acres of land off of Lake Tishomingo Road with a farm and farmhouse that was over 100 years old. Connie loved fishing, so Clarence dug out a 26-acre lake on the property that continually leaked. After building a home on the property in 1974, Connie fished every day. Her biggest catch was a 32-pound catfish that broke the net; she had to drag it up the hill to get it home. "The Farm" was a favorite family getaway for fishing, swimming, hay loft hide outs, red wagon rides, and chigger bites.

Connie spent much of her non-fishing time working with food and feeding people. Besides sporadic cooking for her seven children and 13 grandchildren, she could be found in the kitchens of the Hillsboro Horse Show, the Knights of Columbus" Ladies Auxiliary, and organizing food pick up and drop offs for the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Hillsboro or the Hillsboro Food Pantry, which she and Clarence founded.

Holidays on The Farm often included her famous iced tea blend and gooey butter cake, and all the relatives created thousands of dishes to wash by

hand. The smart ones ran downstairs to take turns pumping out tunes on the player piano. She feigned exasperation with a small grin and a wave of her hand.

Birds, dogs, cats, and flowers were also her passions. She cooked leftover meals for the dogs, doted and chided the cats, and fed the birds all year round. A variety of feeders hung off the deck overlooking the lake, and a bird-themed gift for Christmas or her birthday was always a hit. Each season brought a new crop of flowers around the house or the farmhouse; a bouquet was usually brought in after an afternoon of adventure, although she really didn't like peonies in the house because of the ants they brought with them. Connie was a Bingo master, and would take on everyone in a game of Rummy or Uno, almost always winning with a shrug and a smile.

She once said that she felt closest to God when fishing off the dock at The Lake in the early morning hours, when the misty fog began to lift and the new frogs began to sing. I am sure they have a place like that in heaven ready for you now. Her sweet smile and kind ways will not be forgotten by anyone who knew her. We all love you and miss you.

Matthew 26, 28, 33: "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? "See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin" seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Viewing to be held Brown Funeral Home, Hillsboro, MO on Sunday, April 7

from 2-7 pm.

Funeral Mass to be held at Good Shepherd Catholic church, Hillsboro, MO at 11 am.

In lieu of flowers, please donate service hours or monetary gifts to the St. Vincent De Paul Society, The Hillsboro Food Pantry, the Hillsboro chapter of the Knights of Columbus, or celebrate a mass in her honor. Thank you.

Tribute Wall

LO

“ you are missed everysecond of everyday by so many people. you were a beautiful angel that had an amazing personality. thank you for all your love to me, my son, and all the others you touched.

Laura O'Bryan - September 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ Lisa will be missed by so many. She lived strong in faith and strong in deed.

We have all lost a truly wonderful, kind and selfless woman.

Rest In Peace, Lisa.

Karen & Jerry Kreutz - April 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HP

“ Lisa was a 22 year member of Local 13 and Union Steward for C.W.A. District 6. She will be sorely missed and our deepest sympathy to her family and, especially her son. Officers and Members of O.P.E.I.U., Local 13.a

Hillsboro Food Pantry - April 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ Lisa was a beautiful person on the inside & outside. She was always fun to be around with. I along with all of her friends will miss the conversations we had with each other and hear her talking about her dogs. We will miss her smiling face and laughter too. She was the kind of person who loved helping people out, no matter what the situation was. She will be truly missed by her friends and the people she crossed path with along the way. There will never be another person quite like her on this earth. She was well loved by everyone and no matter where she went or what room she walked in, she always knew how to bright things up. I am so glad I had got the opportunity to meet someone like you and call you my Friend. Now she is among the Angels Above us looking down at all of us. Some Day We Will All Meet Again. Rest In Peace sweetheart....Footsteps In The Sand.....xoxoxo

Philip, Diana, Martin and David - April 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ May God comfort you and your family at this great time of sorrow. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

James Ziegler and Family - April 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ My deepest sympathies to Tina's entire family! I can't even imagine the depths of your loss.

Even though I had not seen Tina since High School, my memories of her are of a wonderful kind person with that warm bright smile. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

kelsey lee - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Tina and I were good friends we did so much together there are so many memories I loved her so much I already miss her so much

The Anglin Family - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ you will be deeply missed . God has special plans for you in his heaven. god bless

Belton family - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM