

1930-2011



DECATUR: Sue Jean Cocanougher, 80, a beloved wife of 52 years, sister, mother, grandmother, and teacher died on Thursday February 3, 2011, in Decatur.

Sue Jean was born July 3, 1930, in Decatur to Gordon Daniel and Jennibelle (Ren-shaw) Roberts. She married Allen Howell Cocanougher on July 5, 1958, in Decatur.

“This was a woman before her time. She was strong, independent and smart as a whip.” M.K. Battaglia said of Sue Jean. As a mentor to many, she was a person who didn’t join many organizations, but quietly and without publicity went about contributing to the lives of those who knew her.

Sue Jean was the Vice President and Salutatorian of her senior class of Decatur High School in 1947. She attended Decatur Baptist College and graduated from Baylor University. She received her masters of arts degree in history at Texas Women’s University in 1969. Sue Jean was quoted in her high school

annual as saying “What is the use of living if you can’t have a good time.”

Sue Jean was a teacher for 26 years. After graduating from Baylor, she taught in the Fort Worth School District for several years and in summers volunteered as a counselor at a Girl Scout Camp in Alpine, Texas. She then married, returned to Decatur, and began teaching 4th grade. When the Federal Migrant Program began in Decatur School District, she was an avid participant, feeling that Wise County dairymen needed migrant workers and that their children needed to be educated. Over 14 years she both taught and continually visited the homes on the dairy farms, befriending parents and encouraging them to register their children for the program. She planned parent and teachers’ meetings, quietly helped children and parents with whatever she found was needed, which could be anything from eye glasses to scholarships for college and she developed life-long relationships with some. Sue Jean was a philanthropist who generously supported the Decatur Community Hospital, as well.

When Decatur Library had its beginning in the early 70’s, she was a regular volunteer and recruited other volunteers. She regularly supported Civic groups, buying extra tickets to events such as the Wo-men’s Club Tour of Homes at Christmas, the Off 380 Players productions, and others.

She frequently visited assisted living residents and home-bound seniors.

In 1969, Sue Jean wrote the book *The Social History of Wise County, Texas, Between 1880-1910* which is housed in the Decatur Library’s reference section. She was a member of the Wise County Historical Society, the Oaklawn Cemetery Board, and was a member of First United Methodist Church for 80 years. At her death she was continuing to serve on the Decatur Main Street Historical Committee that produced the book *A Walk Through Time, The Decatur Square*. Sue Jean also enjoyed bird watching and was a member of two bridge clubs.

Survivors include her husband of 53 years, Allen Howell Cocanougher; sons, Robert Cocanougher and his wife Terri of Southlake, Daniel Cocanougher of Justin; sister Sheri Roberts of Decatur; four grandchildren, Jennifer Cooper and her husband John of Keller, Bobby Cocanougher of Southlake, Danielle Cocan-ougher of New York City, and Ellen Cocanougher of Justin.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 6, 2011, at the First United Methodist Church of Decatur with Reverend Roy Spore officiating. Interment: Oaklawn Cemetery.

*Coker-Hawkins Funeral Home*

*405 E. Main • Decatur, Tx.*