

INEZ BEESON PAYNE McMULLEN

1918 –2011

DECATUR: Inez Beeson Payne McMullen, 93, died Wednesday, June 29, 2011, in Decatur, Texas.

Little Pearl, as her grandfather Micajah T. Beeson fondly called her, was born to Omar Jack Beeson and Velma Lindsey. Sweethearts throughout their years in the two story Paradise school, they married after graduation and the next year Inez was born on main street in Bridgeport. Sadly, her father died of a ruptured appendix two hours after she was born but left her a legacy—his farm on FM 2123.

Inez spent her first five years in Paradise and her last five on the family homestead, Legacy Farm. The intervening years she grew up in Graham where she joined her mother's new family that added six half-siblings to her life. She graduated from GHS in 1935, and headed to Denton and North Texas State Teachers Normal College. Two years later she met a Texas Aggie at an Alum dance in Graham and married on Tax Day, 1938. Alfred H. Payne would never forget his

anniversary. Al set up car dealerships all over Texas but they eventually put down roots as they raised two children, Jan Payne [Pierce] and Jon Crenshaw Payne. Inez and Al were married fifty-five years.

Inez eventually received her teaching degree in 1955 settling in Dallas and Richardson where she began her long teaching career of twenty-eight years. She joked that it only took her twenty years to graduate. She and Al later transferred to Houston in 1960 where she taught elementary school until retiring in 1983. Loving her 2nd and 3rd graders, she felt sorry for those who did not have a teaching career.

A lifelong Christian, Inez served faithfully in several capacities wherever she lived. It was, however, at Lazybrook Baptist Church of Houston where she received her most joy in teaching, missions, outreach, and prayer ministry. She loved her church family and was beloved by them, including Al's Sunday school teacher, Darwin McMullen, whom he commissioned "to look after Inez when I'm gone." Inez took care of Al for the last thirteen declining years of his life. Two years after he died, Darwin McMullen not only looked after Inez but proposed and married her. He was 86 and she was almost 80. Their storybook church wedding broke all attendance records and resulted in a record number of senior adult marriages the following year. Mr. Mac prayed for at least five years more with Inez. God gave him those years and he passed away at age 91.

Inez's children convinced her finally to return to Paradise, where she would be "halfway to Heaven." When Inez joined First Baptist Church of Paradise, she found another church family just as caring and loving as Lazybrook. As she neared the end of life and became critically ill in a nursing home or hospital, her home and church family from both South and North Texas provided support and comfort. On her 93rd birthday she was surrounded by all those friends and family whom she passionately loved. Five days later she died of congestive heart failure leaving Paradise, Texas for Paradise, Heaven.

Inez Beeson Payne McMullen leaves behind not only Legacy Farm to her family but a blessed heritage of two children, eight grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren, and several step grandchildren: Her daughter, Jan Payne Pierce; grandchildren Edith Erin Pierce Webber and husband Brian Webber of Paradise and their children Hudson, Matthew, and Cody; Chad Edward Pierce and wife Lori of Magnolia and their children Madison and Rylee; Derek Daniel Pierce, and Doreen Kay Laurie and husband Larry of Katy and their children: Justin and Carlynn Laurie. Her son Jon C. Payne and wife Evelyn of Tyler; his children: Raechel Inez Doherty of Redwood Valley, CA; Charles Aaron Payne and wife Melissa of Huffman; Jon Jacob Payne of Oroville, CA and Nathan Strickland and wife of Valencia, CA. brothers are Lloyd D. Morton of Plainview and James Morton of Slaton.

Inez is preceded in death by her parents Velma Lindsey Morton and Omer Jack Beeson, two husbands Al and Mac, and four siblings: Harold Morton, Vivian Morton Jones, Raymond Morton, and Evelyn Morton House Swenson.

At age 93, Inez completed her journey from halfway to all the way to Paradise trusting in her Savior's words: *In My house are many mansions; I go there to prepare a place for you. And if I go away I will come again for you. John 14:2.*

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made at either Lazybrook Baptist Church Building Fund (Houston), or First Baptist Church Touching Eternity Fund (Paradise).

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 5, 2011, at the First Baptist Church of Paradise, Texas. David Kelly officiated. Entombment will be at 3 p.m. on Tuesday at Restland Mausoleum in Dallas, Texas.

Jones Family Funeral Home
1401 Halsell St. • Bridgeport, Tx.

