



Hester Medlen

August 27, 2004

CONWAY.....Hester Summers Medlen, age 92, died August 27, 2004 at her residence following a long illness. Mrs. Medlen was well known in Conway as an educator, and she was a leader in both the Kingston Presbyterian Church and in the Conway community. She was predeceased by her husband Frederick Woodrow Medlen and was the last surviving member of her immediate family. Hester Clare Summers was born October 17, 1911 in Cameron, SC, to Dr. S. J. Summers and Hester Keener Summers. She was the youngest of eleven children. She graduated from Columbia College in 1932 and began her forty-year career as an educator in Florence County. In 1936 she married Fredrick Woodrow Medlen and the couple made their home in Conway, SC. The Medlens spent many years as managers of the Austin Charles Hotel in downtown Conway, before making their home on their farm on Highway 501. Mrs. Medlen was employed by the Horry County School District and served both as a classroom teacher and a principal in several schools in the district. She was a member of the SC Education Association where she served as the state president in 1954, the South Carolina Classroom Teachers Association, also serving as state president, and a life member of the National Education Association. She toured the nation as a speaker for the Education Association and was privileged to serve in Washington, DC on two White House Commissions under President Eisenhower. She was President of both The Horry County Education Association, and The Retired Teachers Association here in our district. She

retired at age 62 having spent forty years in the classroom with only seventeen days out for illness. Following her retirement from the school district, Mrs. Medlen joined her husband in operating The Flower Shop in downtown Conway. Mrs. Medlen was a life member of the Fine Arts Club and was active in other community activities. Mrs. Medlen was awarded a citation from Columbia College, her Alma Mater. In 1988 She was awarded The Field and Herald Rod and Harold McCown Community Service Award for outstanding service to Conway and Horry County. Mrs. Medlen was a member of the prestigious Delta Kappa Gamma Society International since 1946 serving as President of both the local "Nu Chapter" and "Alpha Eta State" the South Carolina chapter of The DKG Society International. Serving this organization for more than 50 years, Mrs. Medlen was honored with membership in the "Order of the Rose." Hester Medlen was an active member of the Kingston Presbyterian Church in Conway teaching Sunday School and Bible Study classes for 37 years. She served as an elder, an honorary life member of the Presbyterian Women, U.S.A, and was the first female Clerk of the Session. Mrs. Medlen believed in doing for others, and dreamed that her property on highway 501 would be used to benefit the Conway Community. Mrs. Medlen deeded property to the Conway Christian School making possible the campus that today is actively educating Conway youth. She deeded the majority of her property to the Presbyterian Home of SC for the purpose of building a retirement home for elderly people. That legacy has yet to be fulfilled, but the Kingston Presbyterian Church here in Conway is charged with making her dreams a reality. \t Mrs. Medlen is survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held 2:30 pm Monday from Kingston Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Don Stiens, Rev. David Rickert, and Rev. John Kelbaugh officiating. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Cemetery directed by Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway chapel. The family will receive friends from 6-8 pm Sunday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the Kingston Presbyterian Church for the Presbyterian Home, 800 Third Ave., or to Mercy Hospice of Horry County, 133 Wesley Street , Myrtle Beach, SC

29577, or to Conway Christian School, 1200 Medlen Parkway, Conway, SC.

Tribute Wall



“ thinking of you jean during your loss.##imported-begin##bonnie j. graham##imported-end##

September 25, 2004 at 12:00 AM



“ I don't know any of Ms. Medlen's family, but I knew her and her husband. She was one of my teachers in junior high school and I remember her husband coming to the school to help her put up things in the classroom at the beginning of the school year. I remember Ms. Medlen as one of the teachers that I admired the most, not because of what she taught me academically, but of what she taught me personally. She took her teaching job seriously, I know, but what she taught me more importantly was to always respect yourself, always laugh at your mistakes, and then learn from them. She always put up these encouraging posters to instill in us some self-esteem, and believe me, they at least worked for one student - me. I think she always knew that pre-teenagers need more than academics, that they need some "warm fuzzies", too. I never knew until I was an adult that she did not have children of her own. She would have been such an excellent mother. I am 53 years old, but I have never forgotten her.##imported-begin##Cherry Thompson##imported-end##

September 05, 2004 at 12:00 AM



“ Jean, I have been thinking about you.##imported-begin##Margaret Ann##imported-end##

September 02, 2004 at 12:00 AM



“ We share in the sorrow and loss of Aunt "T". Our memories are numerous and filled with treasures. She was, and will, always be a special lady to our family because she was truly apart of our family. May God continue to comfort you all.##imported-begin##Rick and Paula Wise##imported-end##

August 29, 2004 at 12:00 AM