



## Frances Forsythe

February 8, 1913 - December 11, 2010

Frances Maude (Shaw) Forsythe, age 97, passed from this world on Saturday, December 11, 2010, at the Monroe Care Center in Albia. Frances was born February 8, 1913, to Fred and Maude Shaw on a farm near Hilton, Iowa. She was a graduate of Albia Community High School and received her Normal Training Certificate. She married James W. Forsythe on March 16, 1935, in Unionville, Missouri. They resided on a farm northeast of Albia near Avery. Frances began a teaching career at White Rural School, in Mantua Township in 1950. She then taught in the Avery School district before moving into the Albia school systems where she taught second grade at Washington School and finished her career at Kendall Schools. She received her Bachelors degree from William Penn University, and had nearly completed her Masters degree before retiring after 24 years in 1964. Frances was a lifetime member of the Iowa State Education Association, a member of IRSTA, and a long time member of our local Farm Bureau Federation. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She was just as dedicated to her students as she was her grandchildren. To all her former students you can rest in fact that she took so much pride in every one of you. She loved her school children, grandchildren, painting, and writing. She was known as Sun Bonnett Sue from the KBIZ Barn Dance Saturday night radio broadcasts during the 1940's, playing accordion, guitar, and harmonica. She wrote and had published two books in memory of her childhood. She was a talented individual who will be missed by her family, friends, and former students. Frances is survived by one son, Ray Forsythe and wife Karyn (Cosgrove) Forsythe, of Albia; their three children, Michael and wife Kimberly (Waters) Forsythe of Albia, Robert Forsythe of Albia, and Amy (Forsythe) and David Kliver of Carlisle; three great grandsons, Sutton Dayne Forsythe, Rowan Shaw Forsythe, and William. One sister, Mrs. John Mahin (Lou) of Albia as well as nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Forsythe; her parents; four brothers, Leal, Don, Jack, and Evan Shaw; two sisters, Dorothy and Gertrude. She was a proud woman. Proud of family and friends but very modest about her many accomplishments. Her talent and love will never be forgotten.

# Comments

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“ I echo everyone by saying Mrs. Forsythe was my favorite teacher. She knew you as an individual always making you want to do your best, for her. One special memory I have in her classroom was taking cream and churning it into butter. It was a 5 star meal of butter, saltines and a box of milk. Thank you Mrs. Forsythe for all the lives you have touched. Sheila Stuchel Krieg

**Sheila (Stuchel) Krieg** - December 14, 2010 at 11:12 AM

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“ Mrs. Forsythe was my favorite teacher! What I remember about her is how gentle and loving she was with us all. That couldn't have been easy with second graders!! But we all tried to be better for her.

I have shared this with Ray and Amy, but I remember she wore a brooch that was a lowercase "f." She made sure to let us all know that it should be an uppercase "F" because it was for her name, and proper names should be capitalized. She continued to wear it, though, because it came from her son. She never missed an opportunity to teach.

Fast forward to 1998 when my children and I moved back to Albia. My children, unbeknownst to me until much later, had canvassed the neighborhood introducing themselves. They told me they had met Mrs. Forsythe, knew she was my teacher, because they knocked on her door and been invited to have cookies at her table!

**Gretchen Jenkins Douglas** - December 14, 2010 at 10:36 AM

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“ Mrs. Forsythe was a one-of-a-kind teacher and person. She was an inspiration to all and will be greatly missed. Whenever the conversation comes up, "so, who was your favorite teacher?" You never have to think twice. We were all blessed to have her as part of our lives.

**Megan Sailor Pugh** - December 13, 2010 at 06:07 PM

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“ Frances Forsythe was a fun-loving and talented lady. She taught All three of my sons. My parents were musical and often got together with friends to play music. This was depression times. None of us had any money, but we made our own fun. We invited Frances and Jim a few times when the party was at our house. She loved playing music with the guys and being part of the group.

**Nola (Jenkins) Scott** - December 13, 2010 at 06:01 PM

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“ The angels have received such a wonderful gift when Frances arrived. She was an educator from Heaven while here and I'm sure she will straighten the footsteps of some "lollygaggers" like she did for my sons. Bless her family and know we hold her memory in our hearts.

**Denise Dye** - December 13, 2010 at 04:30 PM

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“ Mrs. Forsythe was a favorite teacher of mine. I visited her maybe 2 falls ago with my dad. She still remembered me. I was amazed. She lived a long and good life.

**Jollette Lindberg Boyer** - December 13, 2010 at 12:39 PM

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“ We thank those who have written,,and wish them the best in life. We appreciate their comments and kind regards for mom. He students achievements and continued growth, and contributions to socety, with understanding and appreciation for others, were a natural part of her. She loved you all, and tried to help you understand who you could be,,and be what YOU are,,  
Her objective was to teach, self worth, and appreciation for our surroundings, friendships, and, love of self and others.]  
We sincerely thank each of you for sharing your comments,,experiences, and feelings. ]  
MOM lives ON in each of you,,,  
Thank you for sharing,,,  
The Forsythe Family,,

**Ray Forsythe Family** - December 13, 2010 at 08:25 AM

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“ Mrs. Forsythe was an amazing teacher, and I have such fond memories of her. When I was a college student, and home on spring break, a storm blew up while I was out on my bicycle. I was getting soaked with freezing rain, so stopped at the nearest farmhouse to call home for a ride. I ended up knocking on Mrs. Forsythe's door, and although it had been many years since I'd been a 2nd grader at Washington Elementary, she instantly recognized me, gave me a huge hug, and invited me in to warm up and wait for my dad. She told me that she'd been painting and teaching her grandchildren to somersault down the hill--that was just so like her! She was a joy and I'll never forget her. She encouraged us to love music, books, poetry, writing, and so many other wonderful things.

Becky Jenkins Schultz - December 12, 2010 at 11:13 PM

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“ Ray, Karyn & Family,

Please accept my condolences on the passing of your mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

I feel as though I have lost an important mentor and friend. Mrs. Forsythe was my 2nd grade teacher at Washington School in 1968, and made a very lasting impression on my life. She is a big part of the reason I became a teacher, teaching 2nd grade, like she did, for 8 of my 27 years. I so vividly remember my days in her classroom...her strumming the autoharp as she led us in a song, her setting up a "post office" in the room where we got to design the stamps and send letters to each other, her allowing a group of us to write a play that followed the "Little House" books and then us getting to perform it at a PTA meeting, and her playing a favorite record, and then dropping it and breaking it, and all of us (her included) crying over the loss. What a wonderful inspiration she was! I also enjoyed my visits with her at the Monroe Care Center when I would be back in Albia to visit my mom. She always seemed thrilled to see me, remembered my name, and would play her harmonica for me. I so wish that I could be at the funeral, but that won't be possible. However, I will be there in spirit, along with all the other students whose lives she enriched.

Thank you for sharing her with all of us!  
Lori Billings Hendrickson

Lori Billings Hendrickson - December 12, 2010 at 06:59 PM

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“ Hi,

Mrs. Forsythe was, in part, the reason I went into teaching. In fact, next year will be my 40th year in education. I had gone to Cuba school for my first 3 years, and then went to Avery in 3rd grade. This little girl had been the only one in my class at Cuba, and I was very fond of Mrs. Sandeen, my teacher there. I didn't know what to expect at Avery. Mrs. Forsythe put me at ease and continued my love of learning. I could tell you so many stories of things we did in the classroom!

One special memory was that she loved to celebrate her own birthday, and always had a party in the classroom on her birthday. So what did I do? I got sick. Both years that I had her as a teacher, I ended up sick on her birthday, and never got to celebrate it with her!

I also remember her winding up the victrola in the back of the room and leading us in music. She seemed to really like the music and that made us like it, also.

Another activity she did once was to have a trade day. We could bring things that we wanted to swap with other students: so exciting for us little ones!

She encouraged me with my reading (reading was really all I wanted to do in school; math was for others.....). But she let me know that I needed to learn the multiplication tables and division also.

I have referred to her many times over the years as I wrote and spoke in my professional life. In fact, I referred to her when I received the Cathlin Casey award for excellence in teaching from St. Louis University in 2007. She was my inspiration that I, too, could find such joy in the classroom.

Sincerely,  
Diana Newquist Parson

**Diana Parson** - December 12, 2010 at 05:53 PM