

## **Mildred Eleanor Mai**

*1916-2007*



**On June 21, 2007**, our beloved Mildred Mai passed from this life into the joy of eternal glory. Her generous smile and endless love for others will always linger. It is that unconditional love which will be her enduring legacy, and an example to follow.

Mildred was born on Nov. 20, 1916, to parents Alex and Hulda Bloomstrom. She grew up in International Falls, Minn., with four sisters to enjoy picnics, sleigh rides, swimming and social affairs. It was at one such social gathering that she met her future husband Emil Mai, whom she married in 1935 just after graduation. Soon thereafter the couple moved west to Oregon with their four young children, finding good work resulting from the war effort. Once in Oregon the family grew to six children.

Mildred's passion for her family helped them endure life's trials. Her resourcefulness at cooking and canning kept everyone well fed. Mildred's endless hours in the sewing corner kept the growing children in warm clothes. On Sundays she sent the children off to church, and then one day she herself attended. That began Mildred's lifelong love for Jesus Christ, the rock she based her life upon. Mildred continued to live at the family home in St. Johns (Portland) until moving to Hillsboro in 1991.

Friends and family will remember Mildred as a mother, grand-mother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, home-maker, Sunday school teacher, retail worker, master gardener, seamstress and so much more. In her 90 years Mildred touched many lives, opening her home for gatherings and to those who just needed love. She was great fun to be around.

Mildred is survived by her son, Ron; son-in-law, Ken; daughters, Arlene (Jim), Donna (Dave), Sheila (Wayne), and Gini (Gary); grandchildren, Rick, Kim, Kelly, Julie, Jeffery, Susan, Doug, Don, Lana, Linda, Greg, Mike, Rhonda, Steven, Michele, Natalie, Paula, Christina, Rebecca and David. There are also many wonderful great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren whom she dearly loved.

Mildred was preceded in death by her husband Emil Mai in 1989 and daughter Marilyn JoAnn Johnson in May 2007. A memorial celebration was held on Saturday, June 30, 2007 at the St. Johns Wesleyan Church, along with a viewing and graveside memorial at Skyline Memorial Gardens.

Mildred also enjoyed her family in faith at the St. Johns Wesleyan Church, where she taught Sunday school for many years. Her request is that remembrances be made to that church and its community efforts.

Mildred's convictions and soft wit blended warmly with an ability to listen and embrace others. She is already so missed, yet we rejoice in knowing she is home at last. (Obituary available online at [oregonlive.com](http://oregonlive.com) and at [plummerdesign.com](http://plummerdesign.com))

## **My Mother...**

### **Yesterday's influence - Today's memories - Tomorrows reunion**

*John 11:25.....I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.*

I am thankful for having had a Mother who took me to church where I learned about the unfailing love of our Heavenly Father. I have always loved music & the hymns I learned and sang so many times have ministered to me all these years from deep in my heart where they were implanted as a child. I know it could not have been an easy task to feed, dress & get our large family "out the door" for church but, she did!

Mom had mentioned to me in later years how much she would have loved to go to college, but the funds were not available at that time. I believe she could very well have been a teacher and given classes in many categories of "Homemaking" with or without a degree.....she did a professional job at whatever she set her mind to do.

Dad & Mom had a garden & from that she canned, & made preserves. In a small kitchen that would not be considered at all pretty or "efficient" today, but, Mom was & she cooked our family wonderful meals from "scratch"..... I was never able to match her gravy. She tried to keep me from eating too many mashed potatoes but she just made everything too yummy!

I have missed her cooking for many years and ....she still indicated I must be eating too many mashed potatoes \*-\* !

Mom was a very organized & efficient person...she had to be to accomplish all she did w/6 of us. I wish I had been more like her in these areas.....two of my sisters were blessed with these traits but the Lord makes us each different & unique.....He has a reason for all He does.....& we need To trust Him since He created us & knows our future..... He really does know what's best...I have sometimes learned that the "hard way".

Mom kept all 6 of us neatly dressed, many of our clothes she made herself when she had "free time".....am not sure when that would have been?? The clothes were made like a tailor.....I have a beautiful wool Easter suit from my teenage years that could have easily been bought from Nordstrom's....lined & w/bound button holes.....no stitch out of place! Whatever she did, she did good!

She raised 6 children with no cell phone, rarely a restaurant meals & no television until we were nearly all grown!! She gardened, cooked, baked, kept the house & us kids clean & tidy & all in a small 2-story house w/1 bathroom (& no shower). People today would say "impossible" .....a couple alone needs a 4 bedroom 3 bath house to "get by"! There were no malls or cinemas & no extra in their budget to go "out to eat" or go shopping, and no Suburban to carry her crew in if we did go somewhere.....but, we survived & I don't remember "feeling "poor.

If we were bored, there were jobs we had or homework. I remember it being quiet even w/a "houseful". No loud music or television blasting. Times were so different & that is probably how Mom accomplished so much.

She was never a quitter! Even in her later year's w/pain & some disabilities she tried to "keep up". It was hard for her not to always be "doing" something with her hands & on her feet. Sometimes I felt I was the older one & longed to have that energy!

Mom was so proud of being a "full Swede"(aybe that is where the "Everyready Bunny's ancestors were from!)

We laughed about her predictable answer when we would ask about the possibility of a health problem or another kind of problem was maybe in our family background...about 99% of the time she would quickly & in all seriousness answer "Oh, that must have been from your Dad's side of the family"!

I am amazed when I think back about how careful she had to be with stretching the dollars. I am still trying to figure out how she did it!! They didn't have credit cards but, we had everything we needed.....she did good!!!

## **Short Stories**

I believe it was the in the early 1990's, Mom rode on a buggy in the St John's parade. The buggy was pulled by mules the Johnson family brought & Mom was supposed to dress in "old fashioned" clothes. Mom wore a bonnet & when Wayne saw her He said "oh, it's a pilgrim". Mom liked being called a pilgrim so Wayne always called her that from then on.

When Mom was in Tuality Hospital to have surgery for her pacemaker several years ago, I was there when the doctor walked in the room. He introduced himself as Dr. Oh. Mom “didn’t miss a beat” and said “Oh, Mai” pointing to him then herself. He looked a bit confused until she explained.

She was always quick witted & the grandchildren & great grandchildren would always get such a kick out of her. It was so nice that her mind stayed sharp to the end. Mom told me a few years ago she tried to learn 2 new words a day from the dictionary to Keep her mind sharp.....it worked!!

Lovingly, Sheila

### **Favorite Bible verses**

*As taken from Mildred’s handwritten Bible notes.*

James 4:5 “Draw nigh...”

Hebrews 13:5 “I will never leave...”

Psalms 34:7 “Angels camp around them that fear Him.”

1 Peter 3:15 “Sanctify the Lord in your heart and be ready always...”

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you...”

Psalms 27:1 “The Lord is my light and my salvation, the strength of my life~ of whom shall I be fear?.”

1 John 4:15 “Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him and he in God”

Matthew 11:28 “Come unto me...”

Psalms 91 “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” “He in my refuge and my fortress, my God, in Him will I trust”