

Marilyn Campbell

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Presented by Cathy Bergan



It is a privilege to tell you about our friend Marilyn Campbell.

Marilyn Hundstad was born October 31, 1930 in Underwood, ND.

Her dad worked for the Soo Line railroad so they lived in the "Section House" near the railroad tracks. This was on the outskirts of town so they could have animals - pigs, chickens, a cow and a pony. A huge garden was also raised so that meant lots of hoeing, picking and canning. Some of the fondest memories, or not so fond, were getting potatoes from the cellar and finding a salamander among them. She had to get pickles from the crock and there was always slime on the top that you had to fish through. Getting water from an outdoor pump and the outhouse are also memories.

The Hundstad house always welcomes everyone to their home. When it stormed and some of the students could not make it home, they could get to the Hundstad's. One never knew who might be there for breakfast.

Marilyn was busy in high school. She taught baton twirling as well as being in the school chorus and the church choir. She would come to Bismarck to take voice lessons from none other than Belle Mehus. She graduated from high school in 1948. She worked at the Bismarck Hospital as an aide and then took a one year course of nurses training. That was not for her so she left Bismarck and went to Minot where she took some college business classes.

Moving to Minot was a blessing for Marilyn, as it was at the Buffalo Tap Lounge on January 1, 1951 that she met Joe Campbell. He started as a lineman for Northwestern Bell Telephone and climbed the ladder in the company until his retirement. Joe and Marilyn were married on August 25, 1951.

They lived in several areas as Joe's job required. October 1953 brought them to Bismarck where they made their home for 30 years. They added 3 children, Allen, Paulette and Kevin to complete their family.

Marilyn worked several places. In high school she worked at the local drug store. She often had to walk home in the dark. Bums hung out around the stockyards and railroad tracks and she had to walk past them. They never once bothered her. She worked at Ellison's Department Store and for the War Surplus Store in Minot. She worked as a conversion clerk changing to dial phones in Tioga, Beach and Bismarck. J.C. Penny's at Christmas time, Montgomery Wards in the office and at Corwin Churchill Motors. She was also a ward clerk at St. A's on fourth floor and worked part time in the pharmacy. She worked in the License Department for the ND

Highway Department. She also sold Tupperware and Best Line Products and was a Welcome Wagon Hostess.

Marilyn volunteered much of her time. She was a Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader, belonged to the League of Women Voters, and was State President of the Democratic-NPL Women. She helped at Governor Guy's inauguration. Vice President Herbert Humphrey also attended. While Marilyn was serving coffee she dripped coffee on his pants. He said nothing, but she was mortified.

She sang in the church choir and belonged to a circle. She and Joe took many trips. The trips often involved doing genealogy research. Marilyn was a docent for the Heritage Center. She received the Miss Hospitality Award for the ND Historical Society for her volunteerism. Marilyn also gave tours of the Governor's Residence during Governor Link and Governor Guy's terms. Marilyn was on the board of the Former Governor's Mansion and also did tours of it. She is on the board for her Condo Association. Marilyn also served a docent for the Norwegian Art Exhibit.

She served on the Social Committee for Sons of Norway, belonged to the Singers and Dancers, is a Book Club Member and has worked at the Lutefisk and Klub Dinners. In addition to her folk dancing medal she has also earned a cooking medal through Sons of Norway. Marilyn spent a great deal of her time with Lorna Tyson, a fellow Sons of Norway member. She assisted her with doctor appointments and in so many other ways. She has also helped others with her kind and generous spirit.

After Joe's retirement in 1981, they moved from Bismarck to Grand Rapids, MN to be near Joe's relatives. They bought a home in the country with 21/2 acres. Everything was good except Marilyn could not stand the "wood ticks".

In 1986 they bought a fifth wheeler and a ¾ ton truck. That winter they spent in Casa Grande, AZ seeing the sights and making new friends. They spent several winters doing that.

1992 brought another change in Marilyn's life. Joe died from cancer of the esophagus in July.

In February of 1993 Marilyn sold the house in Grand Rapids and moved to Bismarck. She bought a condo on Gateway Avenue where she still lives.

We are so blessed that she chose to come back to Bismarck. I thought I knew Marilyn, but after reading her history my eyes were opened to a new person! This remarkable lady truly deserves our thanks and a tree dedicated to her in the Sons of Norway Park.