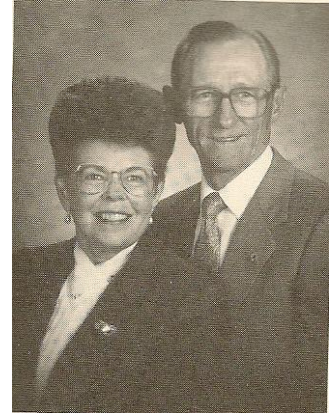


**Lillian Nayes**  
**Tree Dedication – 2002**  
By LeRoy Nayes

Lillian was my wife for 47½ years. After being discharged from the Air Force in December of 1945 I went back to NDSU for my degree. I saw Lillian for the first time at a College Honors program and I was impressed. Later we were both inducted into Phi Kappa Phi honorary scholarship fraternity at the same time. Lillian was president of the Lutheran Students Association, where we got better acquainted and knew we were in love. I wanted to get married and so did Lil, but she was a junior and I was graduating. Her goal was to graduate and teach two years before getting married and that was going to happen. I went on to get my Masters Degree and she graduated and taught two years at Devils Lake. We then got married and both taught two years at Casselton.



Lillian was an excellent student. The Vocational Education Director asked her to supervise student teachers immediately starting at Devils Lake. During her career she supervised 30 student teachers, each for 6 week periods. Her last Home Economics teaching was at Simile until December vacation of 1970. I had been promoted to a position in Washington, DC and moved the family there. In August of 1971 we came back to Bismarck on vacation and Lillian was offered a position in the State Department of Public Instruction, so she and the family stayed and continued in that position until her disability retirement in 1974.

She had come down with a rare disease that destroyed her cartilage. May Clinic diagnosed it and in trying to alleviate the breathing problem almost killed her. After 17 days in ICU she recovered enough to exist for another 22 years. Lil's cartilage disease required hip joint replacements in 1977 and 1980 and again 15 and 18 years later.

Lil wanted to go to Norway to visit relatives. Lil's father and four brothers came to the US when her father was 18. Four younger brothers stayed in Norway, three were living and many cousins she had never met.

We joined the Sons of Norway in 1977 and went with Brekke Tour group to Norway in 1979. Though handicapped physically Lil took an active part in SON. She was Cultural Director and treasurer for two years when our park was being developed, including the stabbur. She did a lot of sewing, learned Hardanger, had done knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, etc. She became a member of the Hardanger and knitting cultural groups. She would take those people interested in learning and teach them. BSC started an adult education program and hired Lillian to teach Hardanger. She taught many classes a series of lessons in our home. Lillian was a perfectionist at whatever she did. In teaching she wanted her students to do quality work. One

of her greatest satisfactions was to have a former student come up to her and thank her for lessons they had learned in her classes and individually.

Lillian won many awards at SON District and International competitions in both Hardanger and knitting. She knit many sweaters, one of which won the Overall Craft Award one year. There are many North Dakotans that have benefitted from the skills she taught and are Norwegian crafts. Her Norwegian heritage had a lot to do with her ability. Her uncles were expert carpenters that became finish cabinet carpenters in boat factories in Seattle. Her mother did sewing, baking, knitting for her family and for sale. Her father was foreman for a construction company until his early death when Lil was only 6. I am proud to have the tree dedicated to Lillian today.