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Obituaries

Lena Rosa Mary Hermann

30-04-1923 ~ 03-07-2012



Lena lived almost her entire life in the shadow of Mount Taranaki, being born in Hawera and her limited schooling taking place at Matapu and Eltham in South Taranaki.

Her family moved often from farm to farm, as her father was not a skilled farmer, having arrived from Switzerland skilled as a tailor. Lena enjoyed music and dancing in and around Hawera and Kaponga. To get to the dances Werner rode a horse and Lena went by bicycle. It was at a Swiss dance that she met and later married Werner Kasper Hermann in 1946.

Soon after Werner's return from WWII serving in the Islands, they moved to Waitoitoi, North Taranaki where they took over Werner's father's farm, milking cows and rearing pigs. They were to stay there for 50 years, raising 5 excellent children and having a major involvement in the school and church community of the area. Lena and Werner moved to Maida Vale retirement village in 1997. Lena was a good indoor bowler, music teacher, typist and farm secretary, but is best remembered for her hospitality and ready meals. Sadly missed by her 5 children, 14 grand-children and 7 great grand-children.

Marie Regina (Molly) Gianotti

06-12-1916 ~ 17-07-2012



Marie Regina (Molly) Gianotti passed away in Auckland, on 17th July 2012, aged 95.

She was born in Kaponga, Taranaki only daughter of Franz and Regina Steiner. Her early school days were at Finty Road Primary School, before going to St Joseph's School in Eltham.

She had 4 sons, including twins, under the age of 3 years and 6 weeks at the time. A daughter, Geraldine, arrived 6 years later.

At the age of nine, she travelled with her grandmother, Regina Leuthard, to Switzerland aboard ship. A passenger on the ship at the same time was Harry Truman, President of the USA. That was the only time she visited Switzerland. At the age of 16 she passed her driving test and retained her licence till age 91.

After her marriage to Rodolfo (1939), she worked on the Stuart Road farm just out of Eltham, with her parents, and later moved into town where she and Rodolfo bought a large house in King Edward Street. Here, the "family" swelled to 18 with the addition of 11 boarders, many of whom became like family and remained in contact with Molly right up to her death.

1949 saw the family move to a new house in Stanners Street, Eltham, and in 1955 the decision was made to move to Auckland. They resided in the suburb of Green Lane and owned a very successful Milk/Bar dairy. Molly became interested in horse racing, as the area was adjacent to Ellerslie Racecourse, and a lot of racing people were regular customers. They came in large numbers on a Friday for the Saturday tips and of course felt obliged to spend a few of shillings at the same time. Her picking winners abilities were well known in the district.

In 1960, the family moved to the suburb of Hillsborough. At this time and with more free time available, they increased their involvement with the Auckland Swiss Club and frequently enjoyed the company of fellow members at the Social evenings held at the Kitchener Street club-rooms.

And yes she did her bit in helping to run the very successful socials. Never without a job, she worked for a number of Auckland's prominent retailers, the highlight of this being the Manager of Lilli Freeman's Fashion Store in Symonds Street. She "retired" in the mid 1980s and took up Lawn bowls as one of her favourite pastimes, which included running Housie evenings for the local parish church and school. Her interest in betting on racehorses continued (\$3 bets) and evenings at the Swiss club playing cards.

She moved to Caughey-Preston Retirement home in 2011 and remained there till her death. She will be fondly remembered by many who passed through her welcoming front door of her last house in One Tree Hill and enjoyed her delightful Swiss baking.

*The Auckland Swiss Club
extends heartfelt sympathies to
the bereaved families and friends.*