



MaryBelle (Steele) Habeger

April 23, 1921 - January 20, 2011

◆ MaryBelle Habeger, age 89, Evansville, went to be with her Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. She was born on April 23, 1921 in Spring Grove Township, Green County, WI to Ralph and Alice (Douglas) Steele. A graduate of Brodhead High School and Groves-Barnhart Secretarial School, she worked as a private secretary at the United Telephone Co., Monroe, WI. After her marriage to Elias (Eli) Habeger in Brodhead on August 24, 1942, she was employed in the office of Atty. M.W. Meienburg, Brodhead. In 1946 she and Eli formed a business partnership, ◆ The Juvenile Shop ◆, and operated the business for 38 years in Evansville and a branch store in Brodhead for 18 years. MaryBelle was an organizer and sponsored many children in style shows in both Evansville and Brodhead. They retired in 1984. In her mid-20 ◆s MaryBelle trusted in Christ as her personal Savior. A student and teacher of the bible, she planted and watered the seed of God ◆s word throughout her life, having a rapport with youth and adults alike in teaching in churches and private homes. She weighed the biblical scholars with the Scriptures and formulated her own teaching materials. Her joy was leading a soul to the saving knowledge of Christ. In churches, she took on the responsibilities of Sunday School Superintendent, youth leaderships, teaching, and sang in choirs. An essayist, of family historian, and genealogist, MaryBelle authored two books ◆ Wash on the Douglas Family Line ◆, and ◆ Wash on the Steele Line ◆. She often said she wasn ◆t born with a silver spoon in her mouth, but with scissors in her hand, so she leaves her lending

library of humorous scrapbooks; family history, and memorabilia scrapbooks; countless subject scrapbooks; and gave many as gifts. MaryBelle had a passion for studying house plans. In 1959, the Habegers purchased the site of the demolished Owen's Mill and the Mill House was remodeled. In 1971, she drew-up plans for a large addition. She once remarked she had done everything except roofing! She was a gardener, and enjoyed raising her own flower seedlings and plants in her solarium; hospitable, the Harbager home was a mecca for Christian friends who enjoyed Hobo Parties, Progressive Dinner Parties, Potluck Dinners, and many innovative events MaryBelle planned, until Eli's death and MaryBelle's failing health. Many will miss her humorously illustrated Christmas letter. She provided for a myriad of songbirds and housecats. An independent lady, she was dependent upon her Lord. She is survived by the son she cherished, and the daughter he chose for her, Hollis and Susan Habeger, St. John, IN, sister-in-law, Lillian Habeger, West Union, IA, 14 nieces and nephews, 2 cousins, the LaVerne Siverling Family, Reedsburg, WI, who shared their children, Steve, Becky and Kim, as her grandchildren, and many friends. Her parents, husband Elias (1996), and a brother, Stanley Steele (1997) predeceased her. A celebration of her life will be held at the D.L. Newcomer Funeral Home, Brodhead, on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 12:00 p.m., with Rev. Paul Bawden officiating. Visitation will be from 11:00 a.m. until time of the service. Charles and Ruth Gildersleeve will have charge of special music. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery, Brodhead. She did not rest on shifting sand, nor feared the storms that raged, for calm and secure, she stood secure, Upon the Rock of Ages with a deep abiding faith. MaryBelle was a tither to missions, so the family will give Memorials to the two most needy - The Salvation Army and Rural Bible Crusade. MaryBelle's family wishes to thank the staff of the Janesville Dialysis Center, on Woodman Street, for 12 years of concerned care for their mother.

Tribute Wall

TB

“ Well, the battle of life is over and we know Aunt Mary Belle fought it proudly. She always was right up front with the concern of a person's soul and whether or not they were saved or not. I guess the gauntlet has been laid down and it is up to us to pick it up and carry on. I loved Aunt Mary Belle so much, she was my hero in that way. So many times I wished I could be more like her. But not in ALL ways. Hollis and Susan, we love you and rejoice in that the hard struggle for her is over and we know she is probably in heaven taking over and getting things down. We pray that the Lord will look after the two of you and hold you close in these days. God is merciful and comforting. God bless you both, we are hoping the weather is good and will see if we can make it. All our love, Tony and Bev

Tony and Bev - May 10, 2021 at 11:28 AM

CT

“ I am sadden by the news of Marybelle's passing. I remember visiting while Uncle Eli was still alive and my first experience with the bidae. I loved the research she did for our family tree. I also recall her love for flowers and cats. Take care, all my love, Cynthia

Cynthia Toms - May 10, 2021 at 11:28 AM

SK

“ It was my pleasure to visit your mother once in her home and to talk with her on the phone a few times. (My grandmother, Louise Habeger Ackerman, was a first cousin to Abe, Eli, and Sally. MaryBelle shared information with me about my great grandfather, John Habeger. He and Abraham were brothers. John moved to Kansas around the turn of the century.) It was great to share our mutual faith, her lovely flowers, and even a few of her favorite recipes. May you be able to efficiently settle the myriad of details with her passing and experience Christ's strength and comfort now and in the coming days.

With sincere sympathy,
Sharon

Sharon Kemp - May 10, 2021 at 11:28 AM

MW

“ I now live with my daughter, Barbara, in San Antonio. When I moved to Texas 13 years ago. My Wash on the Douglas line came with me. One of my grandsons is interested in family history and really enjoyed looking through the book this past summer when they came to visit. He added his and his brother's names to the next generation's column. I still have the special hang tag from one of the dresses I bought for Barbara back in the early 60s at the Juvenile Shop. I am Helen Woodward Deppeler's daughter. My sympathy goes out to you at this sad time. Marjory Deppeler Wendler

Marjory Deppeler Wendler - May 10, 2021 at 11:28 AM

BY

“ I was sorry to hear of Mary Belle's passing, but took consolation that she is beyond suffering now. Mary Belle was a first cousin of my grandmother, Lois (Douglas) Stepnoski, and I first met her when I became interested in family geneology. Mary Belle graciously invited my sisters and I to her home, fed us, and took us on a tour of Brodhead! She was a special lady and will be remembered and missed.

--With sympathy, Beth

Beth Yockey - May 10, 2021 at 11:28 AM

SS

“ Greetings, I'm sorry that I will not be attending the funeral. I have a meeting I have been waiting months for looking for a job. However, I'm sorry to hear that Mary Belle has passed away. I wish I could attend the funeral. steve siverling

steve siverling - May 10, 2021 at 11:28 AM

SH

“ So sorry to hear of Mary Belle's passing! I can't make the funeral as I will be teaching school today. I am so thankful for her life, as she was the one who told me about eternal life. I came to Christ because of her example. She was the best Sunday school teacher!!! I still use the information she gave me through the years to teach my students today!

Shirley Hauri - May 10, 2021 at 11:28 AM

KH

“ Thanks so much for calling me and letting me know. My parents - Richard and Georgette Habeger of Virginia - met Mary Belle on a trip some years ago. Dad was so impressed with the wonderful family history she wrote.

After Mom started going downhill (she died last year a few weeks before her 90th birthday), I took over the letter writing and enjoyed sending her cards and articles a few times a year.

Her yearly newsletter was one of the highlights of the Christmas season. I admired her determination so much to keep going. I'm sorry I never got out to Wisconsin to see her garden.

Kay Habeger - May 10, 2021 at 11:28 AM