

EVELEAN FRANCIS NICKLE McGEE  
(Also known as "Evelyn") 1917-1989

EVELYN was born April 1, 1917 to Lena Marie Augusta Dahlmann and Daniel Earl Nickle in Springfield, MO. the oldest of their nine children. Two brothers and six sisters would follow. She was a "premie baby" weighing just a few ounces over three pounds. She was so small her head would fit into a tea cup and her whole body in a shoe box. Her Aunt Elizabeth and Aunt Hatti kept her alive by wrapping her in a small blanket, putting her into a shoe box and putting the box on the kitchen oven door. The aunts kept the heat at just the right temperature, and watched her around the clock for several days, feeding her sugar water from an eye dropper. The doctor, thinking she would not live, simply wrote on her birth certificate "baby girl." Her parents named her Evelean but when she entered school the teachers started writing her name as "Evelyn", because they could not understand her . She was then called Evelyn by all...except by her parents, and her family members, who call her Evelean.

Evelyn was, as everyone knew, a humble, modest, reserved, unpretentious person, yet one not given to public pronouncements of the love she had for her children, Kay and Sam.

When Evelyn was 18 years old she met and married 19 year old Marvin Lee McGee. They were married for 53 years at the time of Marvin's death. Evelyn passed away just one week later. They lived through the troubled days of the Great Depression, experienced hard and difficult days when jobs and food were scarce and the words "sacrifice", "hard work" and "frugality" were terms with which they became intimately acquainted with early in life and never forgot. Marvin's wages were one dollar a day. However, Evelyn stated that her home life in her early years was "happy and normal".

Evelyn's mother was the epitome of motherhood and homemaking and her skills were superior. Evelyn gained these skills, and was Phi Beta Kappa graduate of her mother's school of experience. After marrying Marvin she applied these skills in becoming an immaculate housekeeper and a cook extra ordinaire! In cooking there was none better in baking powder biscuits, gravy, ham and eggs and her fried chicken would have run Colonel Sanders out of town. And the flaky crusts on her pies would melt in your mouth ! If you wanted a piece of her chocolate cake, for which she was famous, she would whip one up in minutes, and it didn't come from a box! She was also skilled in handiwork.

True and faithful to the sacred and holy covenants that she made with her Heavenly father, when she entered the waters of baptism, Evelyn exhibited that love by faithfully attending church and by serving in many positions. She served as Secretary in several Relief Society Presidencies and her faithfulness as a Visiting Teacher would be hard for anyone to match, traveling by car as far as twenty miles in different directions, it often took two days to complete the monthly visits. Her Mother was her companion. Evelyn had a great love for the gospel.

The bonds of love between Evelyn and her sisters were greater than any other siblings that others have known. Joan stated, "If one of us obtained some measure of success the rest of the sisters rejoiced. If one of us suffered, we all suffered". We were all best friends.

Compiled by sister Norma JoAn Nickle