

Helen Marie Nugent-Rohlfs

Helen Marie Nugent-Rohlfs, 92, longtime resident of Bingham Township, near Bad Axe, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011 at her home.

She was born April 20, 1919 in Philadelphia, Penn., the only child of the late LeRoy and Helen (Durkin) Fulton.

As a child, she moved to Detroit and at the age of 15, she graduated from Lincoln Park High School. She achieved considerable recognition as a pianist and at an early age was a pupil of Dr. Edward B. Manville at Detroit Institute of Musical Arts. Following high school, she studied at the Institute and Wayne University, receiving an Artist Diploma in piano and a Bachelor of Music in theory and applied music. She then attended Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan, where she was granted a Bachelor of Musical Education, Master of Arts in Educational Administration, and an Educational Specialist Degree. She taught music in the Bad Axe Public Schools and developed one of the largest mixed chorus and Girls Glee Clubs in the Thumb area. She was the Title I director and coordinator until she retired in 1984. She married H. Ralph Nugent on May 22, 1937 in Detroit. He preceded her in death in 1991 after almost 54 years of marriage. She married Gleason D. Rohlfs in 1994. He preceded her in death on Nov. 2, 2009.

Helen's main interest in life was the academic and musical education of her seven children. She also enjoyed her music, her rose garden and gourmet cooking.

She is survived by three sons, Gary (June) Nugent of Bad Axe, Howard (Ann) Nugent of Wasilla, Alaska, Clark (Beverly) Nugent of Ann Arbor; four daughters, Nancy (William) Denbrock of Bad Axe, Jan Nugent of Bad Axe, Nicki (Stephen) Williams of Caro, Patti (Michael) Grenko of Tumwater, Wash.; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; three stepsons, Ronald (Pam) Rohlfs of Longview, Texas, Arthur (Cindy) Rohlfs of Vienna, Va. and Kim Rohlfs of Vienna, Va.

In keeping with her wishes, there will be no visitation or services. Cremation has taken place with interment in Colfax Cemetery in Bad Axe.

Memorials may be offered to Heartland Hospice.

Arrangements by the Kaufman Funeral Home in Bad Axe.