

Kovach-Corning, Marjorie J.

Marjorie Jane Kovach-Corning died Friday, Feb. 20, 2009.

She was born on April 10, 1933, in Sheridan Township. Family lore has a tale that she was really born in 1932 because her birth certificate was filed months after her birth — not until July 24, 1933, according to legal records. Being a woman, she opted for youth and chose 1933 in order to be a year younger.

Her parents were Asa Ward and Nellie (King) Apley and they blessed her with a large family of 12 children, she being the fourth youngest. It was a large family fighting to survive the dark years of the Depression. Marjorie never got over those times without “things.” Anyone who ever saw her closets and drawers can attest to her need, especially for fashion extras. Every shoe box with coordinating purses neatly stacked or shelves with cubicles made to fit the same way, three drawers of jewelry, every piece of clothing since 1970, and more underwear and night clothes than she would be able to wear in a lifetime. It wasn't only clothes, but houseware items too: tools, books, papers, pens, clips, trinkets, pots, plastic containers, glass jars — the list is endless. George Kovach & Marjorie were married Oct. 13, 1951 in Bad Axe and settled into married life on one of the Kovach farms until moving to Muskegon in 1956.

She was a traditional 1950's-60's homemaker until after her last child left home for college in 1979. She then started working for C.K. Homes, supporting people who have developmental disabilities. She loved this work and found pride in her new, but familiar, role of caregiving. In 1984, George died from cancer. Marjorie found herself a young widow at the age of 50 and without the financial resources she'd been accustomed to, so working became a necessity rather than something to provide the extras. In 1990, she went from C.K. Homes to Amicare, from which she retired in February 2002.

In February 1993, she met Lowell Corning. The two of them enjoyed a senior relationship/courtship until they were married Feb. 16, 2001. Lowell was welcomed into every facet of Marjorie's former life and even went to visit with George's family. They were good together, but they unfortunately had their fun and joy cut short by Marjorie's first broken femur in June 2002. Life since then has been a struggle: she suffered through strokes, a second break to her femur, liver failure, and Lowell's aging problems of prostate cancer, back problems, heart problems, etc. Lowell suddenly passed away Dec. 21, 2008 from what is believed to be a broken heart. Marjorie lost her will to live from that day on, too.

In addition to her beloved husbands, George and Lowell, and her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, George; her siblings, Evelyn, Lorraine, Wallace, Bernice, Archie, Wilfred (Moon), Joan, Jean, and Stanley; her in-laws Alonzo, Ethel, Helen, Louis, and Bill.

Survivors include children, Deborah (Garry) Robbins, Eugene Kovach, and Marjorie Kovach- (Scott) Hladki; grandchildren, Scott (Chris) Wall, Cathie (Kevin) Coulter, Jason (Mya) Wall, Becky Bridenstine, Casey (Travis) Dunlap, George Kovach, Jeffrey (Suri) Kovach, Derek Hladki, Heather Kovach, Benjamin Hladki and Anlyn Hladki; and 18 great-grandchildren; sisters, Alta (Joe) Gonzalez, Inez (Alton) Gerstenschlager; in-laws, Margaret Haslett, Mary Kovach, Katherine Corning, William (Sandra) Corning, Valona Bowles, and Donald Corning.

Memorial service was conducted Monday, Feb. 23, 2009 at Ever Rest Funeral Home and Chapel, 1783 E. Keating Ave. in Muskegon.

Memorial contributions can be made to HGA Support Services Wish Fund, 500 W. Western Ave., Muskegon, MI 49440. Please leave a tribute for Marjorie at www.mem.com.