



Mary Beckman

September 4, 1923 - December 27, 2010

Mary Green Beckman, born in Rome, Italy, on September 4, 1923, died on December 27, 2010, in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Mary moved with her family to Laramie, Wyoming in 1924, and then to Detroit, Michigan in 1928. She earned her B.M. degree at Oberlin Conservatory of Music and her M.M. from the Cleveland Institute of Music. For many years she was a renowned professor of harp and music at the University of Northern Iowa.

Mary married Malcolm Beckman, owner of The Hub, a popular Cedar Falls ice cream parlor and restaurant, in 1952. She was extremely active in her church and in community affairs, working as a hospice volunteer and teaching adult literacy, among other things. She received several awards from the governor of Iowa for her contributions to society. She is survived by seven nieces and nephews and six great-nieces and great-nephews.

A memorial service will be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Friday, June 10, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

Donations may be made in Mary's memory to the Cedar Valley Hospice or to the following organizations for inclusion in Mary Beckman Endowment Funds: Cedar Falls Civic Foundation for the Cedar Falls Public Library or the Cedar

Bend Humane Society; St. Luke's Episcopal Church; University of Northern Iowa Foundation; or Sartori Health Care Foundation.

Tribute Wall

MW

“ My very first job, when I turned 16, was waiting tables at The Hub. My brother Don was the first of our family to work at The Hub, and then my twin brother Marvin took Don's job when Don went into the Air Force. I started working there at about the same time Marvin did, and we were followed by 3 more from the Wheat family, David, Vanda and Lawrence. Although we worked with Mal most of the time, Mary came in before closing, nearly every night, and we did get to work with her some of the time, as well. They were both very patient people, and I enjoyed working with and for them. The Hub and the Beckman's hold a fond place in my heart.

Mary Ellen Wheat - March 29, 2013 at 02:50 PM



“ To the family of Mary Beckman,

Just wanted to extend my condolences on the passing of Mrs. Beckman.

In the fall of 1965, I arrived at the State College of Iowa, fresh from the farm, wanting to be a music major. My very first college class was at 8:00 on a Monday morning, a music theory class being taught by a lady named Mrs. Beckman. I remember this as if it happened yesterday, walking into that classroom and being confronted by this unsmiling, very stern looking lady, who scared me to death, and who continued to put the fear of God into me for the next two years. But also during this time, I came to know her as a very warm, caring person who really wanted her students to do their best and to succeed. A lady with a very dry sense of humor who was really a lot of fun to be around. I know I speak for other students who had her over the years, that though, she may have traumatized us initially, smiling, we all look back at the years we spent with her as a great experience. We all have fond memories of her and time we spent in her classroom and the succeeding years at UNI. She is and will always continue to be etched into our memories as someone who helped shape us into what we became in life.

June 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM