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Life Legacy

Jean Holmstrom, 85, a retired Georgetown teacher, beloved mother, exemplary grandmother and friend to all, died Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2008, following a brief illness. Mrs. Holmstrom, born July 9, 1923, in Gorman, Texas, was the oldest of Stella Dyer and Guy McGee's three children. The family eventually moved to George West in South Texas. She and her siblings and five Lamm cousins were a close-knit family, active in the small community where the family owned an ice house, a hardware store and the local water utility. She graduated from George West High School and went on to graduate from the University of Texas at Austin. Mrs. Holmstrom began her career as a homemaking teacher in Granger in 1944.

She soon met and married on Sept. 2, 1947, the love of her life, **Hartwin H. Holmstrom**, whose farming and ranching family spanned four generations in Williamson County. The couple were married for 56 years until Mr. Holmstrom's death on Dec. 13, 2003.

Mrs. Holmstrom is survived by her three sons and their wives: Dr. John T. Holmstrom and Linda L. Welch; Carl and Susan Holmstrom; and Bert and Lisa Holmstrom. Also surviving her are seven grandchildren and their spouses: Ashly and Justin Wilson, Tiffany and Matt Pullen and Lindsey Holmstrom; Travis and Meredith Holmstrom and Weston Holmstrom; and Kristen and Alison Holmstrom. Her two step-grandchildren are Creighton and Cody Welch. Her six great-grandchildren are: Hannah, Ryan and Mason Pullen; Avery and Wade Wilson; and William Holmstrom.

Mrs. Holmstrom also is survived by her brother-in-law, Ansel Holmstrom and wife Doreen, and nieces Carlette Litterst and husband Mike; Dana Schlabach; and Cara Westerman and husband John.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband and her siblings, Jennie Ruth McGee and Guy Weldon McGee. After the Holmstroms began their family, Mrs. Holmstrom quit teaching in Granger to raise her sons and to help her **husband run a dairy farm in Jonah until 1959**.

In 1963, the family settled on a ranch between Jarrell and Florence. Once her boys were mostly grown in 1969, Mrs. Holmstrom began teaching vocational education at Georgetown High School where she remained until she began her 20th year with the district. In her last year of teaching, despite her anxiety, she became a resounding success as a fifth-grade teacher at Williams Elementary School. The first in her circle to own a microwave oven, the chronicler of family gatherings with the first giant, hand-held video camera, and one of the few octogenarians who could operate a GameBoy, Mrs. Holmstrom instilled in her grandchildren a love of education and a desire to be their best. An outstanding cook, seamstress, Bingo and 42 player, Mrs. Holmstrom will be remembered most for the deep love and affection she had for every single member of her growing family.

Arrangements for Mrs. Holmstrom include a visitation from 6-8 p.m., Thurs., Aug. 28, at the Gabriels Funeral Chapel; a funeral service at 10 a.m., Fri., Aug. 29, also at the Gabriels, followed by burial in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Georgetown. Memorials may be made to the Williamson County Texas A&M Mother's Club, in care of Cheryl Hulum, 601 CR 309, Jarrell, TX 76537.

Besides the Bishops and Davidsons, **Hartwin Holmstrom** had a Holstein dairy north of Jonah, Texas.

He and his wife Jean along with three boys, Johnny, Bert and Carl took care of the dairy and did farming on the side. This lasted for perhaps ten years. Their dairy was situated on top of a hill with farmland on three sides. It looked like an ideal place to do dairying since the land drained well.

When the boys became older, they began bugging their folks to get out of the dairy business and go into ranching. Hartwin was easily convinced since he liked to ride horses and play cowboy. So, when they heard about a large ranch coming up for sale west of Interstate 35 they managed to buy Mr. Otto Grumbles out. That was the end of their dairying venture. The county lost a good dairyman, but I doubt that they gained a good rancher. That proved to be true later on.