

Rose Alice Gray Carter | 1913-2014

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Rose Alice Gray Carter

Rose Alice Gray Carter, who with her husband, Gene, owned the *Wise County Messenger* from 1960 to 1973, died Saturday, May 3, 2014, in Arlington at the age of 100.

Funeral was May 6 at Greenwood Funeral Home's Arlington Chapel with burial at Elmwood Cemetery in Bowie.

Rose was born May 13, 1913, to Oscar A. and Ocie Hardison Gray in the Lone Star community in Montague County. She was one of seven children. She graduated from Bowie High School in 1930 and attended North Texas State College (now UNT).

On July 29, 1933, Rose married Ernest Eugene "Gene" Carter, who started his weekly newspaper career with *The Bowie Blade*. On Sept. 13, 1934, their only child, Peggy, joined the family, and they remained in Bowie until 1937, when Gene began working for the *Muenster Enterprise*.

In 1941, Gene accepted a position with the *Baylor County Banner* in Seymour. During the next 19 years, they became co-owners of the Banner, and Rose began her career as business office manager in charge of advertising, sales and whatever else was needed – a job she loved.

In 1960, they bought the *Wise County Messenger* in Decatur and published it until their retirement in January of 1973, when they sold the newspaper to the current owners, Roy and Jeannine Eaton.

After retirement, the Carters moved to Arlington and spent their free time traveling in their Airstream trailer, exploring parts of the U.S. during extended absences from home.

A lifelong, strong Baptist lady and “Jesus person,” Rose and Gene were active members of the First Baptist churches of four towns. Family ties were of utmost importance in both the Gray and Carter families, and Rose’s house and cooking were family favorites. One niece dubbed her the “matriarch” of the family.

As Gene’s health began to decline, Rose became the consummate caregiver for 10 years – sometimes to the detriment of her own health. They had been married 68 years when Gene died Feb. 10, 2002. She remained in her own home until 2006, when she chose to move to Bethesda Gardens assisted living.

She celebrated her 100th birthday there last year with a beautiful party and passed away just 10 days short of 101.

Rose was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Bill, Weldon and Charles Gray; sisters Nina Combs and Martha Willett; and “one life, one love forever” husband, Gene.

She is survived by a brother, Paul Gray; daughter Peggy Marshall and husband, Worth; stepsons Mark and Greg Marshall; stepgrandchildren Matthew, Kate, Ben and Nick Marshall; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be sent to Mission Arlington, 210 W. Center St., Arlington, TX 76010 and Community Hospice of Texas, 6400 Western Place, Suite 105, Fort Worth, 76107.