



## Helen Schlecht

October 7, 1925 - December 29, 2010

Helen Marie Schlecht of Woodruff died at Inn Care in Minocqua, after a struggle with dementia, on December 29th, 2010

Helen Marie was born October 7, 1925 to Leo Schlezewske, a barber, and Emma Louise Hicks Schlezewske, a homemaker. The family moved from Kaukauna to Arbor Vitae in 1935, where they built and operated the "The Old Swimmin' Hole" on Arrow Head Lake, a business her father continued to run until 1983.

Helen was a 1943 graduate of Arbor Vitae-Woodruff High School. She married Dan Schlecht on October 15, 1946 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Minocqua and celebrated their 64th anniversary this past October. The couple, along with Helen's father and father-in-law, Dr. Carl C. Schlecht, built the home they've lived in since 1956, with materials sawed from their own mill. During the building process, Helen helped pull, and stack the lumber, which they harvested from their "Camp Little Big Horn" property. At five feet tall and weighing 98 pounds, Helen was a mighty lumber "Jill".

Among her occupations, Helen sewed custom draperies for Ruby Fisher Interiors of Minocqua, was a receptionist for Dr. O.W. Pfeiffer, worked for Bill Nelson insurance, and was a secretary at the AV-W school. In 1965, she became Woodruff Town Clerk, an elected position she held until her retirement in 1979.

Helen was active in her community. She was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, the AV-W PTA, and the Nokomis Chapter NSDAR. In addition, she was an active member of the Dr. Kate Museum for 20 years, during which time she served on the board of directors. She was a creative force in the Lakeland Stunt Night Scholarship Fundraisers in the 1960's. In 1987, she co-authored, with her daughter, The Woodruff Album, a centennial history of Woodruff.

Aside from her community service, Helen was an exemplary grandma and a compassionate, generous person by caring for sick loved ones and donating to many causes. Her interests included sewing, reading, playing the piano, and researching genealogy, where she traced her roots back to Mayflower ancestor, John Billington. In her younger years, Helen enjoyed swimming, water skiing, ice skating, horseback riding, and snowmobiling.

Helen is preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Eunice Bowman. She is survived

by her husband, Dan, a daughter, Marsha (Mike) Doud of Minocqua, grandsons, Jon (Lindsay) Bast of Woodbury, MN, Mike (Heidi) Bast of St. Michael, MN. She is further survived by her brother-in-law, Henry Schlecht, of Minocqua and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on January 8th, 2011 at 11AM, with a visitation at 10AM at Bolger Funeral Home in Woodruff with Hospice Chaplain Steve Russell officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Seasons of Life Hospice (P.O. Box 770 Woodruff, WI 54568) or Dr. Kate Museum Memorial Scholarship Fund (Dr. Kate Museum, P.O. Box 851 Woodruff, WI 54568).

Online condolences may be shared at <http://www.bolgerfuneral.com>

**BOLGER FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES IS SERVING THE FAMILY.**

# Comments

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“ Dan  
So sorry to hear about Helen.  
Wanda Pietila

**Wanda Pietila** - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

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“ It was sad to read about Helen's passing. I'd never seen her without a smile on her face, and she always provided help to the townsfolk of Woodruff. Her long marriage to Danny, a rare type of person, an honest & caring used car salesman, attests to the strength of both of them.  
God bless her.

**Bill Weiler** - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

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“ Mrs. Schlecht was the secretary at AV-W when I attended from 1957-1963. She was always such a kind, compassionate woman and seemed to always have a smile for whomever she met. I truly believe she was the "glue" that kept Mr. Hagen and the rest of the staff working at their best. I am sure she will be missed. My condolences to the family. Debbie Smith Hester

**Debbie Smith Hester** - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time with the loss of your wife, mother and grandmother. Please have comfort knowing that she is now resting peacefully and that you are still with her every day.

**Sue Carlson Koran** - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM