

GRACE C. JOEHLIN,
1908-2002

Teacher enjoyed ballroom dancing

Grace Curtis Joehlin, a kindergarten teacher for 20 years who later took part in ballroom dancing competitions, died Sunday in the memorial care center of the Elizabeth Scott Community, Springfield Township. She was 93.

She had been in declining health in recent weeks, her son, Larry, said. She had lived at Elizabeth Scott about seven years.

She was Mrs. Curtis during her teaching career, which included about 20 years at Walbridge Elementary School in Toledo, the last 17 of which she taught kindergarten. She retired in 1973.

"She did have a knack for dealing with small children," her son said. "She enjoyed meeting them when they hadn't had any previous experience."

Mrs. Joehlin in the 1940s taught beginning violin and piano pupils for several years. She was recruited by her son's violin teacher, who knew her talent with children.

"She was very good at getting small children to want to learn," her son said.

Born in Ithaca, Mich., Mrs. Joehlin graduated from Elsie, Mich., High School at 14 and went to what is now Bowling Green State University, graduating in 1924 with a teaching certificate.

She taught in Ovid, Mich., for several years.

She returned to college later — the University of Toledo — the same year her son began classes there. Mrs. Joehlin received a bachelor's degree in education in 1956.

"There were many younger people who would come over to her house," her son said. "They would be her classmates, and they would study with her. She always seemed to have younger friends around her."

She and her first husband, Lorenzo, married Dec. 28, 1928. The couple enjoyed square and round dancing — she was even a square dance caller for a time — and they traveled widely with his Zenobia Shrine activities.

After his death in December, 1966, she continued to dance and took part in ballroom dance competitions. She was at such a competition in Hawaii when she met Homer Joehlin, who was on an opposing team. They married Oct. 31, 1974, and took at least three trips a year to fox trot, waltz, or samba competitively at events around the country.

"They had hundreds of trophies," her son said.

Mr. Joehlin died Aug. 19, 1979.

Mrs. Joehlin traveled to Europe several times, including a summer's stay in Sweden. She liked needlepoint and other handwork and learned to make furniture.

"She was always undertaking new hobbies," her son said. "She was one of those people who was a bundle of energy."

Surviving are her son, Lorenzo; stepson, Stan Joehlin; stepdaughter, Nancy Bonner; six step-grandchildren, and 14 step-great-grandchildren.

There will be no visitation. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Feb. 5 in St. Paul's United Methodist Church, where she was a member. Arrangements are by the Bersticker-Scott Mortuary.

The family requests tributes to the St. Paul's Church Foundation.