

TRINITY -- Memorial services for long time Trinity resident and civic leader, Helen Mae Elliott will be held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 30, 2004, in the First Presbyterian Church in Trinity.

Mrs. Elliott died Saturday, May 22, at her home in Trinity.

Born in Alabama, Mrs. Elliott grew up in the Smokey Mountains of Kentucky and West Virginia where her father worked as an electrician in the coal mines.

After graduating from high school, she attended college and obtained a teaching certificate. However, a single year of teaching grades 1-12 in a one-room school convinced her that this was not the career she wanted to pursue.

She moved to Ocean Side, Calif., during World War II where her brother, Carl, was stationed. Although she was inspired by "Rosie the Riveter" to seek work in the war industries, she was never able to drive in a straight rivet so she became a hair stylist.

She met a Marine Corps master sergeant by the name of Charles H. Elliott of Trinity on Feb. 7, 1944 and had their first date on Valentine's Day. They were married on April 3 of that year.

The couple later recalled that when they left the florist after purchasing her bridal corsage, a lieutenant walked up to Sgt. Elliott and informed him that if he was not good to Helen, the lieutenant would "come after him."

Family members joke that Elliott took this threat seriously because the couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary earlier this year.

After the war, the couple returned to Elliott's hometown of Trinity to raise their family. Mrs. Elliott gained a reputation of being a gracious person with a quick smile and a nice word for everyone.

She was active in the community and her children's school activities and was known as a great mother and homemaker who strived to make friends and family members feel welcome in her home.

Mrs. Elliott also was known as an excellent helpmate for her husband. She was the first to obtain an insurance license to provide the family with extra income. When the insurance company for which they wrote policies folded, she pounded the pavement in Houston until she found another company willing to do business with Trinity Insurance Agency.



HELEN ELLIOTT

...Memorial service set

Mrs. Elliott also was known for her independent and adventurous nature. She and the late Mickey Barnes of Trinity were the first women ever to serve on a Trinity County grand jury. She later recalled that the prosecutor and judge at the time tried their best to dismiss the two women, but they were determined to stay on the panel even though one of the cases they were to consider involved rape charges.

During testimony regarding the rape case, Mrs. Elliott remembered that the prosecutor kept his back to the two women because he was so embarrassed.

Mrs. Elliott also was known as a gracious hostess who gave many parties that even her teenage children and their friends wanted to attend.

The only people who gave her more joy than her own children were her grandchildren. In return, they all adored her and loved to spend time with her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Jesse Price; three sisters, Betty Price, Hattie McKinney and Nell Smith; and two brothers, Bert and Carl Price.

Survivors include her husband, Charles H. Elliott of Trinity; two sons, Bill Elliott and Jon Elliott, both of Houston; a daughter, Charicya Stayton of Trinity; a sister, Mary Stevens of Waller; six grandchildren, Amber Crow of Fort Worth, Ashley McDonald of Magnolia, Jonathan and Spencer Elliott of Houston and Elliott and Patrick Stayton of Trinity; two great-grandchildren, Samantha Bishop of

Fort Worth and Jacob McDonald of Magnolia; a number of nieces and nephews; and a number of great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that contributions be made to the First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Fund, the Blanche K. Werner Public Library or any charity.

TRINITY STANDARD, MAY 27, 2004

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