



BETH PETTY JIMMERSON

Mrs. Beth Petty Jimmerson, age 97 of Crockett passed away Monday, March 17, 2003 in Denison. Mrs. Jimmerson was born May 1, 1905 in Madill, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, Oklahoma, John Levi and Margaret Jane Cumming Derrick, the oldest of three children.

After graduation from Madill eighth grade with the General Excellence Medal and Madill High School as valedictorian, she enrolled in the University of Oklahoma in 1922 where she was a member of Alpha Phi social sorority and the Blue Pencil literary society. In 1928 during the Texas Panhandle oil boom, she worked in Amarillo for a cottonseed cake distributor when she met Houston County native Roy Cullen Petty, who worked at the Texas Company Refinery. They were married November 5, 1932.

Settling in Crockett in 1946 after World War II, they operated the Roy Petty Grocery. After Mr. Petty's death in 1967, Mrs. Jimmerson was elected Houston County Tax Assessor-Collector. Mrs. Jimmerson was sworn in January 1, 1966, at the age of 63, for the first of three terms. During her tenure the tax office garnered statewide recognition for

efficiency and accuracy. Computerized operations were introduced, replacing the shoe boxes previously used to organize work. In 1965, she married Alvin R. Jimmerson, who operated Jimmerson Dry Goods on the Crockett square. He passed away in 1991.

A lifelong Methodist, Mrs. Jimmerson was baptized as an infant by her grandfather Derrick. Both her grandfathers were Methodist missionaries. Her grandfather Derrick founded the Indian school in Lebanon, Oklahoma, and later led the Methodist church in Madill. Her grandfather Cummings and his brother founded the First Methodist Church in Dallas.

In 1962 she was the only woman on the Board of Stewards of the First Methodist Church. Mrs. Jimmerson served continuously on that board and its successor, the Administrative Board, until the late 1980s when her husband became ill. After his death in 1991, she was re-elected. Mrs. Jimmerson served as president of the Board of Trustees. The Susannas honored her as the 1991 Mother of the Year. In decades of teaching Sunday School classes she shared her faith with children and adults, including the Questers Class and the Builders Class. Former president of United Methodist Women, she has served as a district officer, received Special Member honors twice, cited for Special Mission Recognition, and was President of the Wesleyan Service Guild.

The Head Start program in Crockett was the first in the state. In the early 1970s, Mrs. Jimmerson was one of the organizers and served on the first board of directors. Mrs. Jimmerson worked in Panhellenic, Pythian Sisters, the Order of the Eastern Star, and the PTA.

Survivors include her four children Margaret and Bill Melvin, Cora Lee and Dr. Charles Hughes, Alvin and Ada Jimmerson, JoAnn and Allen

Jones: seven grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; and very large and loving extended family.

Funeral services for Mrs. Beth Petty Jimmerson were held Friday, March 21, at The First United Methodist Church in Crockett, with Dr. Jerry House and Dr. Joe Fort officiating. Interment followed in the Evergreen Memorial Park in Crockett.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The First United Methodist Church or to the charity of your choice.

Callaway-Allee Funeral Home

*Evergreen
Crockett*