



Anna Dorothea Nienhueser

December 5, 1927 - June 15, 2022

Former Bowling Green resident, educator and community activist Anna Nienhueser, 94, died June 15 in Springfield, Mo., where she had lived since moving to be closer to family in December 2016.

Anna Dorothea was born Dec. 5, 1927, the second of three daughters of Charles B. and Ruth E. Harrison Rudolph in St. Louis. She once wrote her life roughly paralleled aviation in the country because 1927 was the year Charles Lindbergh made his renowned solo flight across the Atlantic in The Spirit of St. Louis.

At age six she and her family moved to Troy, where she attended public schools and worked in her parents' businesses, the Trojan Theater and "Playland," an entertainment venue for young people. A plus, she said, was always having a free pass to the show. Otherwise, she commented, "I experienced the Second World War as a teenager with ration cards, no gasoline, and no men."

After her junior year in high school, Mrs. Nienhueser enrolled at Central Methodist College in Fayette where she said there were 450 women and 50 men. After a year at what she labeled "that girls' college," she transferred to the University of Missouri-Columbia where she earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

In pursuit of her educational goals, she used her dyslexia as motivation to become a reading specialist instead of allowing it to be a limitation to her. Fortunate for her at the university was the mentorship of A. Sterl Artley, Ph.D., a recognized expert in reading education and one of three originators of the Dick and Jane textbooks used by generations.

In conversation, the topic of recurring nightmares often prompted her to recount an anecdote involving Artley. Instead of waking panicked about forgetting to study for or missing an exam, her nightmare stemmed from reality. In it a teaching assistant handed her the wrong test during one of her master's exams. When she protested, Artley said go ahead and take it; you know the material.

The summer before her senior year she met George H. Nienhueser Jr. and married him a year later August 12, 1949, in Troy Presbyterian Church. She recounted, "My younger sister (Vera) and I had a double wedding. Because my dad moved the church pews to temporarily widen the aisle so that he could escort both daughters down the aisle at the same time, we made the St. Louis Post Dispatch. Slow news day." The couples, who were friends, married on the Rudolph's 25th wedding anniversary.

After a honeymoon at Rockaway Beach near Branson, the Nienhuesers launched their teaching careers in Alton, Mo., and taught there until 1950. Newly acquainted in the community they were surprised by an old Ozark custom when a long line of cars approached their home one day to commence a shivaree.

New teaching opportunities took them to Wright City for two years where their first child was born in 1952. They moved to Owensville, where Mr. Nienhueser taught, and the family grew again in 1953 and 1954. Another teaching job for

Mr. Nienhueser landed them in Clarksville in 1955, followed by a move for a principal's job in Canton.

Even though they were raising a family, both Nienhuesers were intent on pursuing master's degrees to further their opportunities in education and moved to Columbia for a short while before their children were school aged. In January 1958 Mrs. Nienhueser earned her master's degree. In 1959 they moved to Bowling Green where Mrs. Nienhueser resumed teaching.

While raising a family, which by 1963 had increased with a fourth child, teaching and participating as a member of First Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green, Mrs. Nienhueser still found time to fulfill her extracurricular responsibilities as National Honor Society, high school newspaper and yearbook sponsor, as well as membership in Mother's Study Club.

Nurturing was second nature to Mrs. Nienhueser who enthusiastically supported youth projects and activities in Bowling Green. She and her husband were founding contributors to build a public swimming pool in the 60s. As a parent, she wholeheartedly supported the activities of her children, including Boy Scouts, FFA, FHA, 4-H, sports, aquatic club, band and Girl Scouts.

At church she was active as a deacon, elder, session member, committee member and chairperson, Sunday school teacher and volunteer for dinners and bazaars. A friend from church wrote to her, "You have always been a blessing to me. You touched my heart at an early age and helped build my FAITH in God. ...Thank you for your love and kindness all my life."

Active in the American Cancer Society, Mrs. Nienhueser raised funds during daffodil days, helped start and chair the Relay for Life in Pike County, earned

the Presbyterian church's sponsorship of Relay and a cancer support group, volunteered to help women recover from breast cancer surgery as a survivor herself, and supported the memorial garden on the square in Bowling Green.

Individually, she offered support to many cancer patients particularly through written notes and prayers. She once spelled out her approach, "As I visit with those dealing with cancer, I continually encourage them that a positive attitude can make one well. I BELIEVE IT! All of us need to live every day as if that day is important. Our living everyday as if it is important is important to God, I am sure. He wants us to love our neighbor, attend to our neighbor's needs, and care when he hurts."

Her chosen method was writing notes of encouragement, a practice she continued among new friends even after moving to Springfield. She wrote so many she had to keep organized with a calendar or log. Her morning routine was breakfast followed by spreading out her note cards, addresses and stamps on the dining room table to correspond with the many friends she made through cancer support.

She said her cancer was not a curse but a blessing because it gave her a new perspective on life and connected her with so many who became friends. This philosophy inspired another friend, who was a contemporary of her youngest daughter, to write a book.

Mrs. Nienhueser was happiest when she was reaching out to someone, and this nature afforded her friends and relationships of all ages. She received a note from a teenage friend: "Lately when I've been praying, I always find myself thanking God for putting you in our lives. I figured that instead of only thanking Him, I needed to also let you know how much I appreciate you."

Another college-bound friend wrote, "...I could never forget my Grandma

Anna.” Another, who was a contemporary of her son, shared this, “Thinking of all the special women in my life—you are on my list!” One who was first a colleague and ultimately a friend wrote, “Thinking of you fondly, Anna, with a heart full of gratitude for your inspiration, dedication to our students, mentorship and our friendship.”

Resourcefulness and persistence helped Mrs. Nienhueser achieve her goals, and in 2005 she recalled the 70s, “We had three children in college two years in a row. They all worked, and we survived.”

Another manifestation of these qualities appeared during the height of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. A recent college graduate and collaborating volunteer later in life described Mrs. Nienhueser’s approach to address the local need:

“I was inspired by her (Mrs. Nienhueser’s) bold willingness to jump into a highly controversial and complex issue, clearly believing that we could make a difference. The subject of AIDS involved both homosexuality and promiscuity – two pretty provocative issues for Christian congregations at that time, and she believed strongly that our little rural Presbyterian church not only should become involved, but we must. And so we did! ... her illustration of fearless and selfless community leadership became a beacon for me to follow.”

Mrs. Nienhueser described it, “We were finally able to get permission to have speakers with AIDS address students at both Bowling Green junior high and high schools. We did not want to scare kids; we just wanted them to be informed. I consider AIDS prevention education to be one of my most meaningful lifetime endeavors.”

In 1988 Mrs. Nienhueser retired from teaching English, college preparatory composition, reading and journalism through production of the high school yearbook and newspaper. She concluded her career in Bowling Green by

substituting at high school and junior high five years.

Among her favorite memories are former students' stories of how her teaching helped them -- like this one from editor in chief of the 1986 Bowling Green Bobcaster who attributed his colorful basketball game account to her: "excellent tutelage of Mrs. Nienhueser...loved my Journalism classes...it's where I learned to write". Through the years she repeated, "I truly enjoyed my teaching career," often after hearing one of these success stories.

Retirement allowed time to pursue her many interests. A lifelong gardener, she grew and canned vegetables for years and had operated a strawberry patch as farm manager and chief goose wrangler when her children needed to raise money for college.

Now she was able to turn her attention to the flower gardening that had seemed an unnecessary luxury when she was helping support a family. An outlet for her creative side, she expanded her flower garden from one end of the property to the other. Many enjoyed her blooms according to their comments as they drove by her home. At one point, she said, "I just love this place."

Another creative outlet was poetry. Although no competition for Hallmark, she often jotted down verses to celebrate a friend or relative's special occasion. She continued this among her new friends after moving to Springfield.

One of her favorite occasions was the Christmas season both for its Christian significance and the prospect of gathering family and friends. An avid Christmas ornament collector, she acquired many supporting the church's annual Christmas bazaar.

Another of her favorite holiday projects was the letter she drafted to accompany a photo in the earliest years of her family because it kept her in touch throughout her life with friends she collected in each place they lived. In later years she remained committed to the project, although skipped the photo and sometimes mailed her letter in July.

Retirement afforded more time spent with neighbors and friends, trips to visit her children and grandson, "flea marketing" and PEO membership. Although surprised to be chosen, she was proud to have been Bowling Green's citizen of the year in 2001 and grand marshal of the Champ Clark Heritage Festival parade.

Recently Delta Delta Delta, the sorority she joined in college, acknowledged her 75 years of membership. There she met friends who remained close throughout their lives.

As her husband's life became more difficult with complications from Parkinsonism, she gradually retired from projects serving the community to support him. Health concerns took priority by yearend 2016, and they sorrowfully left Bowling Green where they had lived so happily.

Mrs. Nienhueser was preceded in death by her parents; both sisters, Marian Williams and Mrs. Kenneth (Vera) Shafer; her husband, and son, George Henry Nienhueser III.

She is survived by daughters Nancy Southworth, Springfield; Kay Nienhueser, St. Louis; Anne Nienhueser and her son, Andrew Alan Deppe, Harrisonville; and Loa Freeman, widow of George Nienhueser III, Springfield.

Visitation will be 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday August 12 at Bibb Veach Funeral Home in Bowling Green, assisted by family member Eric Pitman of Pitman

Funeral Home in Wentzville. Visitation will continue from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. August 13 at First Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green, followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to First Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, BGHS Alumni Association scholarship fund and cancer research or support groups.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 12. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bibb-Veach Funeral Home's & Crematory LLC - Bowling Green
606 West Main Street
Bowling Green, MO 63334
(573) 324-2211
office@bibbveach.com
<https://www.bibbveach.com/>

Visitation

AUG 13. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
205 W Centennial
Bowling Green, MO 63334
<http://www.bgpresbyterian.info/>

Memorial Service

AUG 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
205 W Centennial
Bowling Green, MO 63334
<http://www.bgpresbyterian.info/>

Tribute Wall

LI

“ Mrs N was definitely a hard teacher but one of the best and my favorite. I had her for publications, and composition. We worked on the school newspaper and yearbook. I eventually went to work for the Bowling Green Times. If she got the paper and saw mistakes she didn't hesitate to call and let me know. She also called to tell me that my editor should change her photo. That next week I made sure it was changed. I didn't want to get that call again. I am so sorry for the family's loss. She was a wonderful person and amazing teacher.

Linda - August 13, 2022 at 08:00 PM

CM

“ Carla Mills lit a candle in memory of Anna Dorothea Nienhueser



Carla Mills - August 13, 2022 at 03:19 PM

AE

“ I had the pleasure of working with Anna and the Nienhuesers many years and she was a professional in every way. She is to be commended for the many contributions to BGHS. Nancy and Kay you were model student and I considered both of you cherished friends. Kay, thanks for all your office help. Condolences to the entire family. The Ellison family.

Argil Ellison - August 12, 2022 at 07:27 PM

AE

Ann, I inadvertently left your name off of my post, you, of course, were to be included in our condolences and special friend.

Argil Ellison - August 12, 2022 at 07:54 PM

JH

*“ Mrs.N was my English teacher. She was the best and I will always cherish memories of her. My Deepest Sympathies to her family
Janie Haley*

Janie Haley - August 12, 2022 at 01:30 PM

JL

“ I didn't have Mrs. N as my teacher in school but my sisters did. When Mr. N was staying at The Moore Pike Home for a little while and I would be visiting my aunt I had the privilege of quite a few conversations with her and I so enjoyed them! She was a SPECIAL person! I also enjoyed driving by her home off of 61 and taking in the beautiful and colorful irises she and God provided for us all to enjoy. Made me smile everytime. Thanks Mrs. N.! Jean (Tinsley) Ledford

Jean Tinsley Ledford - August 12, 2022 at 01:08 PM

LL

“ I remember her from composition class. She was tough, but a great teacher. Praying for comfort for the family. Linda Finley Loman

Linda Loman - August 10, 2022 at 11:03 PM

CM

“ *Carla Mills lit a candle in memory of Anna Dorothea Nienhueser*



Carla Mills - August 10, 2022 at 06:36 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Anna Dorothea Nienhueser.*



August 08, 2022 at 11:36 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Anna Dorothea Nienhueser.*



August 08, 2022 at 09:48 AM

DC

“ *When I worked as moderator at the First Presbyterian Church, Bowling Green several years ago, I remembered my connection with Anna and her friends and supporters within the church group. Everyone was very supportive and complimentary of her work within the church group. I want to extend my sympathy to her family and friends. D. Randall Cone, Louisiana, MO*

Dean Randall Cone - August 07, 2022 at 01:04 PM

ET

“ One of the great people of the Bowling Green/Pike County community. She and George were an amazing gift to our community. A gifted and inspiring teacher who loved teaching and touched each of us. She expected hard work and your full attention. I saw in her a sophistication and elegance that made each of us strive to be a bit better and look at the world beyond Bowling Green. Her children (my classmates) were exemplary people and were gifted by having two amazing parents. I feel very fortunate to have known Mrs. Nienhueser and Mr. Nienhueser. We were blessed when they came to the Bowling Green School System and as role model citizens.

Tom Tinsley

Edward Thomas Tinsley - August 02, 2022 at 02:37 PM



“ Donna Korte Wiss lit a candle in memory of Anna Dorothea Nienhueser



Donna Korte Wiss - July 30, 2022 at 06:54 AM



There are so many things i could say about Mrs. N. Loving, caring, inspiring...tough, demanding, she could see your potential and nurture it. Not only my favorite teacher, but my favorite person. Thank Mrs. N for making me a better, intelligent person. Word Power forever!

Donna Korte Wiss - July 30, 2022 at 07:03 AM

JF

“ *What a loss!! She was like a second Mom to me. And when Butch and I would get in trouble Mrs. N would straighten us out!! Loved Her!!*

JIM FISHER - July 23, 2022 at 11:28 AM

CM

“ *My sympathies to Mrs. Nienhueser's family. Mrs. N (as she will always be known to so many of us) was such an influence in my life and a favorite teacher. I suspect that you have had countless people express that same thing. She set standards high and expected, no, knew you would meet them. She made you feel smart. Without her, I am not sure if I would have had the confidence to succeed in college. Even now, whenever I am writing, I wonder if I am using grammar correctly and try to remember what she taught me. If she had the ability to read this now, I fear it might disappoint her (or at least have many red marks)! To her family, I hope these comments of what a special person she was brings you comfort. Word Power! (if you know, you know)*

Cindy McDannold - July 22, 2022 at 05:16 PM

SK

“ *Nancy and Kay, Vickie and I send our heartfelt sympathy for the loss of your mother. I have such fond memories of your mom and dad. Hopefully the world will produce more people of their caliber. They touched all of us that had the honor of being taught by them. Stan and Vickie King*



Stan King - July 22, 2022 at 12:58 PM

CR

Joe and I send our prayers. Your mom inspired so many people. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Charlotte(Houchins) Rowell - July 22, 2022 at 01:41 PM

GR

“ Gail (Tinsley) Rutter lit a candle in memory of Anna Dorothea Nienhueser



Gail (Tinsley) Rutter - July 22, 2022 at 09:54 AM

LC

“ Larry Chamberlain lit a candle in memory of Anna Dorothea Nienhueser



Larry Chamberlain - July 22, 2022 at 07:42 AM

LC

Mr. & Mrs Nienhueser made such a positive impact on so many people in Pike County, especially mine. RIP

Larry Chamberlain - July 22, 2022 at 07:46 AM

ZE

“ I was privileged to have Mrs. Nienhueser as a teacher. I was later blessed to know Anna as a source of support through cancer. I shall never forget this lady. Prayers for comfort and happy memories for her family.

Zella (Hickey) Eliason - July 22, 2022 at 12:21 AM

LN

“ LARRY AND NANCY THURMAN NATION lit a candle in memory of Anna Dorothea Nienhueser



LARRY AND NANCY THURMAN NATION - July 21, 2022 at 09:26 PM

JM

“ What a remarkable and beautiful life this lady shared here on earth. Praise the Lord for her testament here in the Pike County area. The Nienhueser family brought a bright light to all of us and I know set a firm and great example for my sons, Tom and Martin Moss who were Mr and Mrs Nienhueser's students. She was certainly a community blessing.

Judy Moss-Niemeyer - July 21, 2022 at 07:22 PM

DS

“ When I went through breast cancer, in mid 90's, I received oh some many notes from her and words of encouragement. She was so faithful in sending them to me throughout my treatment. She kept up with me though my Mom (Lil Jones). I always enjoyed seeing her, and her beautiful smile when I would attending 1st Presby, when visiting in BG. A true legacy she and Mr N, made on BG - so thankful they were both in my life. God be with the family.



Donna (Jones) Sheets - July 21, 2022 at 07:09 PM

GM

“ I was blessed to be one of Mrs. N's students in 1987-88 right before she retired. When my dad was in a serious accident in 1990, I received one of her beautiful handwritten notes. Her encouragement helped me through one of the hardest times of my life. I will always remember her kindness and professionalism. Prayers for her family through the coming days.

Geneva Martinson - July 21, 2022 at 07:04 PM

JS

“ Jackie Stockamp lit a candle in memory of Anna Dorothea Nienhueser



Jackie Stockamp - July 21, 2022 at 05:49 PM

JS

Mrs.. Nienhueser was wonderful person....I had for a teacher she awesome...Use see her at Church..she was such a sweet person...So very very sorry to hear this...if world had more of Mrs Nienhueser this world be such better place..I have alot fond memories of her.... so sorry for loss prayers to the family

Jackie Stockamp - July 21, 2022 at 05:57 PM

HS

“ The Nienhueser Family, I am deeply saddened to hear of your mother's passing. Mrs. Nienhueser was a wonderful and caring lady. I have many fond memories of your mother and father from Saturday mornings at Me-Me's Pantry. They were two of my favorite customers. Mrs. Nienhueser would give me advice as I began my teaching career; advice I still follow in my own classroom. I will keep your family in my prayers during this difficult time.

Heather Spegal-Ritchey - July 21, 2022 at 05:46 PM

SO

So sad to hear of the passing of Mrs. N (as all BGHS students knew her). Although I didn't have her as a classroom teacher, she gave me lifelong advice by her example. After her retirement, I got to know her through mutual friendships and cherish our conversations. Prayers for you girls.

Susie Oberdahlhoff - August 07, 2022 at 03:38 PM

KM

Mrs. Nienhueser was a great teacher and encouraged many students to do their best. Her example of how to live life was inspirational. I was fortunate to have her as a teacher and friend.

Kenneth G Mallory - August 17, 2022 at 12:43 PM