



Frances Smet-Mehrer

June 14, 1934 - May 18, 2007

Frances Smet-Mehrer -- Chebanse Visitation for Frances Marie Smet-Mehrer, 72, of Chebanse, will be from 10 a.m. Tuesday until the 11 a.m. funeral Mass at St. Mary & Joseph Catholic Church in Chebanse. Rev. Lee Bacchi will officiate. Burial will be in St. Mary & Joseph Cemetery, Chebanse. Memorials may be made to Merkle-Knipprath Nursing Home in Clifton, the Alzheimer's Association or for Masses. She died Friday (May 18, 2007) at Merkle-Knipprath Nursing Home in Clifton. Arrangements are by the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee. Mrs. Smet-Mehrer taught at Chebanse Elementary and then Brookwood School District, retiring in 1996. She was born June 14, 1934, in Chicago, the daughter of Adolf Peter and Germaine DeSchryver Smet. She was a music major and graduated in 1956 from Illinois Wesleyan University. Her husband, Richard J. Mehrer, whom she married Aug. 7, 1988, in Chebanse, died June 15, 1999. She was a member of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association, Illinois Chapter of Phi Beta Mu 16, Sigma Alpha Iota (music fraternity) and Illinois Wesleyan University Alumni Association. She was a member of St. Mary & Joseph Catholic Church in Chebanse. She played music in the Municipal Band, the Kankakee Symphony Orchestra at Olivet and Chicago Heights Symphony Orchestra. She enjoyed music, her animals and boating. Surviving is her longtime friend, Barbara Foley of Chebanse. Deceased are a longtime friend, Gerry Bauer and one cousin, Frank DeSchryver

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 02:03 PM



“ Barb, My sympathy is with you. ĩ½ You really took good care of Ms. Smet. ĩ½ She will always be Miss Smet to me.

PEGGY

##imported-begin##Peggy Streeter##imported-end##

May 20, 2007 at 12:09 PM



“ What a love this lady had for music. ĩ½ She even got me excited about it. ĩ½ I remember learning to read it in the little white building near Elmwood. ĩ½ I loved it when she played her Oboe! ĩ½ God bless her for the wonderful work she did with all of us. ĩ½ ##imported-begin##Lucinda ĩ½ Elliott Cordes##imported-end##

May 20, 2007 at 12:09 PM



“ I remember Fran since I was a young boy, and sang with The Kankakee Boy Choir. ĩ½She was a very special lady who loved us boys as her own. ĩ½She would play in the small chamber orchestra that accompanied us on many occasions. I remember our years in the Municipal Band, and how she loved her bassoon, her students and music. Meeting Rich was a high point in both their lives that was cut too short. My fondest memory is when I visited her at the home, and sang hymns out of my hymnal to her in her room. ĩ½Music still spoke to her soul, and she would direct, keep the beat, and smile. I wish I could have been there yesterday, but I was not able. ĩ½I will always remember her special hugs and kisses.##imported-begin##Patrick Skelly##imported-end##

May 20, 2007 at 12:09 PM



“ We will greatly miss Frances. ĩ½We often had picnics together and just spent time hanging out with the horses. ĩ½Matter of fact she taught Danielle how to ride and took her out several times to ride her horse. ĩ½Actually she was able to get all the kids to ride the horse as they were scared to at first. ĩ½She was a wonderful person and will always be missed. ĩ½Our memories of all the times shared with her will last us a lifetime. ĩ½ĩ½ĩ½The Timm,s##imported-begin##Lisa, Rachel, Danielle, Ashley, Amanda Timm##imported-end##

May 20, 2007 at 12:09 PM



“ I will miss Fran's spirit greatly!

She was one of the first and finest women that I met when becoming a member of the Sigma Alpha chapter of SAI at Illinois Wesleyan University. ĩ½We were not only able to become friends through that organization which she loved very much, but were able to serve on committees and play together in the Kankakee Municipal Band during the summers when I would come home from college.

She was always quick with a smile, had the energy of someone half her age and she always was interested in what was going on in my life, personally and professionally, and seldom did the topic of conversation ever turn to herself.

Her love for music and life and the manner in which she always treated me like an adult (even when I was really just a kid) have stuck with me all these years. ĩ½I am now a teacher and sincerely hope that I pass along a little piece of her love of music, teaching, and life when dealing with my own students.##imported-begin##Amanda McCabe##imported-end##

May 20, 2007 at 12:09 PM



“ Franny was a person who lived the "Golden Rule". ĩ½She was a good friend to all who knew her. ĩ½I still remember her wonderful love of all living things. May she be in the presence of all the people and animals that she befriended during her life. I hope the wonderful gooseberry bushes are still in her back yard. ĩ½Franny...they made great pies! ĩ½With great love. ĩ½Yates##imported-begin##Lloyd Brackney##imported-end##

May 20, 2007 at 12:09 PM



“ Fran and I taught band in the Clifton, Ashkum, Chebanse school District #1 as our first teaching jobs at the same time. We played in the Chicago Heights Symphony together - she on bassoon and myself on french horn. ¶½We attended each other's weddings, and Fran was a bridesmaid in mine. ¶½We were both Chicago natives. Once Fran and I took a canoe outside the breakwater at Chicago and almost drowned! We, and our friend Lola Young who also taught in Clifton were fast friends. ¶½The 3 of us always joked together that no matter what, we were SO HAPPY! ¶½And we were.##imported-begin##Gil Hamon Swanson##imported-end##

May 20, 2007 at 12:09 PM