

I N M E M O R Y O F
B E E (W I L S O N) H O L M E S



Bee Holmes

Our beloved Bee Holmes, Editor Emeritus of Pennington Pedigrees, entered into eternal rest on May 18, 1991, in Amarillo, TX. She was born December 20, 1899, in Amorita, OK. Services were held at the First United Methodist Church, Borger, TX, on May 21, 1991, and burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery, Wichita, KS, beside her husband, Cecil.

Without Bee Holmes, there would be no Pennington Research Association. She devoted untold hours for many years collecting and sharing information on the Pennington Family. The greatest tribute that we can pay to Bee is to insure that her work is carried forward.

The Borger News-Herald, Dec. 28, 1984, carried the following story, entitled "Busy Bee is Now Queen Bee:" Bee Holmes, "the lovely lady of Borger," was honored at a reception on her 85th birthday Dec. 20 in her room at Borger Nursing Center. Very best friends arranged the come-and-go party for the well-loved former teacher who is known the country over as an outstanding genealogist. Others who have genuine love for the woman who came to Borger in 1953 with her husband, Cecil, also a teacher, came to visit with Bee and enjoy the sparkle of delight in her blue eyes as she welcomed them.

It was a traditional birthday party, with a decorated cake, and with convenient cupcakes, punch and coffee served throughout the day. It was a time of remembering. Some guests remembered Bee as one of their children's outstanding teachers; others knew her as an active member of the First United Methodist Church. Still others made her friendship as members of Borger Branch, American Assn. of University Women, the group that honored Mrs. Holmes in 1978 as its outstanding member. And some friends shared memories of good times at luncheons for WW I veterans and their wives, recalling Bee's serving as president of the group. Women in the AAUW art group remembered the fun they had with Bee when they worked together at tile work, with Bee most successful in creating beautiful wall plaques which now hang in a bank and a school in Borger. There were other friends who learned to love Mrs. Holmes since 1962, when she began her work as a genealogist, was active in the local genealogical society, published a magazine on the family she was researching, and wrote a column for the Borger News-Herald.

All knew Bee's story: She was born in Indian Territory, educated there and in Wichita, Kan., attended Fairmount College for two years, and started teaching. She earned her degree later at Kansas State Agricultural College, now Kansas State University at Manhattan. She and Cecil Holmes married, and survived the hard times of the depression by leaving teaching to run a chicken farm in Louisiana. Bee augmented their income by teaching piano lessons. During WW II, Cecil went back into service and Bee worked in an aircraft plant in Wichita. Bee and Cecil went back to teaching, in Louisiana and Arkansas, and then in Borger. Cecil became ill in 1972 and was hospitalized in the Veterans Hospital in Fort Lyon, CO. Bee remained in Borger to teach, visiting Cecil often during those difficult years; he died in 1975.

This remarkable woman has long endured the agony of rheumatoid arthritis, managing to keep active and accomplish a great deal during the past ten years. Now, however, she needs care, so she has adjusted to living in the nursing center. She is always alert and interested in the world about her. A visit with Bee Holmes is a tonic to her friends, for she is a remarkable conversationalist, well-versed on a variety of subjects, and she has a sense of humor that gives delight to others. Borger's "Busy Bee" is now Queen Bee, worthy of homage from those who love her.

Corbin Pennington received these pictures from his cousin, Florence Lening, Dumas, TX, taken 6-27-1981 at the Pennington Reunion, Amarillo, TX.



Florence Lening (L); Bee Holmes (R)



Marshall Pennington & Bee Holmes