

November 8, 1911
Davis
April 24, 1997
Viborg

Viborg Enterprise
May 1, 1997



Maye Anderson

Maye Anderson was the kind of teacher who brought sandwiches for the poor students and stayed after school to tutor those who needed help.

Mrs. Anderson, who taught for 30 years in Turner County, Rapid City and Lennox, died Thursday, April 24, 1997, in Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home in Viborg. She was 85.

Robert Anderson of Davis said his mother cared deeply about her students' lives. "She was a stern teacher, but she got students to learn and she made

learning fun," said Robert Anderson, who was also her student in grade school. "Everybody learned to work to their potential because of Mom."

Mrs. Anderson started teaching in a one-room school near Viborg for \$40 a month when she was 18. After working in a bomber repair shop at Ellsworth Air Force Base during World War II, she returned to teaching in the Davis area.

She was in her 40s when she earned a degree in elementary education from Sioux Falls College by taking evening and summer classes.

More than 25 years after she retired, her son still hears stories from her former students about how she influenced their lives.

"Even today, people come up to me and say what a wonderful teacher she was and how she got them started," he said.

Away from school, Mrs. Anderson loved to garden, and many hopeful green thumbs purchased plants from her to get started. "She was noted for her strawberries. She had a strawberry bed you couldn't believe," Robert Anderson said.

Even while in ill health during the last few years, Mrs. Anderson sat outside and pointed with her cane to the weeds her husband or son should pull.

"Mom said idle time is the

devil's handiwork," Robert Anderson said. "She taught me the value of an honest day's work."

The same charity that prompted her to make eight or 10 sandwiches for her poor students also drove her to help with community needs. Robert Anderson said his mother and father often donated to community organizations, asking that they remain anonymous. "She was always the first one there with a cake or a roast beef dinner when there was a death in the community," he said. "She touched so many lives."

Maye Johnson was born Nov. 8, 1911, in Davis. She graduated from Lennox High School and Sioux Falls College and did graduate work at the University of South Dakota.

She married Ralph Anderson on July 12, 1940, in Rapid City. They lived there until 1952, when they moved to Davis. After retiring, she was a substitute teacher for several years.

She was a member of Bethel Reformed Church and the Sioux Falls Area Retired Teachers Association.

Grateful for having shared her life are her husband, Ralph; her son; Robert C. Anderson of Davis; two grandsons: Rodney C. Anderson and his wife, Jana, of Walton Beach, Florida and Russell C. Anderson of Hurley; two great-grand children: Kayla and Rusten Anderson in

Florida;; one sister, Nell B. (Cotton) Meier of Evergreen, Colo.; a special niece, Sandy Meier Bilbo of Dumont, Colo.; her aunt, Wyone Millar of Kearney, Missouri; a special friend, Erma Anderson of Hurley; plus other relatives and a host of friends.

Memorial services will begin at 2 p.m. Friday, May 2 in Bethel Reformed Church, Davis.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Dan Schroedermeier, Dennis Smith, Richard Lounsbury, Alan Shade, Joe Hummel, Howard Olson. Private burial will be in Davis Bethel Cemetery.

There will be no visitation.

Memorials can be directed to Bethel Reformed Church.

Dindot-Klusmann Funeral Home in Lennox is in charge of arrangements.