

Bettie Jane Prewitt McNeese

July 29, 1924--September 4, 1977

Biography

Bettie Jane Prewitt McNeese was born in Round Rock Texas, July 29, 1924. Her extended family had lived in the Williamson County area since the 1800s. Her father, Charles Prewitt was a member of the Old Settlers Association and a rural mail carrier. Her mother, Zettie, was a school teacher.

Known to her family as Bettie Jane, Bettie graduated from Round Rock High School in 1941 and went to Nixon Clay Business School. She worked for a while before marrying her high school sweetheart and lifelong friend, Frank McNeese. Bettie's three brothers and Frank had been good friends since early childhood. Frank's family had also lived in the Williamson County area since the 1800s. Frank and Bettie had one daughter, Zettie Sue McNeese (Vogler).

Bettie and Frank resided at 310 Chisholm Trail which is next door to her parent's home, where she was raised. Her parent's home is currently on the property of Central Baptist Church and is used as a prayer house. The McNeese and Prewitt pioneer family land originally comprised the area roughly around what is now 620 and IH 35 in Round Rock.

Frank was a distinguished career Army officer and upon his death in 1972, Bettie went to work as the Welcome Wagon person for Round Rock and later worked in the Merle Norman shop. Bettie was active in Round Rock historical preservation projects and was President of Round Rock Woman's Club 1975-76.

Bettie and her husband Frank were also very involved in the Old Brown Street First United Methodist Church in Round Rock. After Bettie's death from colon cancer in 1977, the McNeese Bell Tower was constructed at the Brown Street location of the church in memory of Bettie and Frank. The bell was from the original white clapboard FUMC in Round Rock. In April 1987, as part of an Eagle Scout Project, the tower was moved to its current location, by the legendary Council Oak, on the campus of the new FUMC.

In memory of Bettie, RRWC decided to create a scholarship to honor her kind spirit, leadership and community volunteerism. The club's newly created scholarship was presented for the first time in 1978 at Round Rock High School. The carefully selected Bettie McNeese Scholarship recipient is traditionally a graduating senior, from the Sub-Junior RRWC (Sweethearts), which is a service club at RRHS.



By Becky Sloan, Historian, RRWC 2012-13

Sources: Zettie Sue McNeese Vogler, Wes Prewitt, FUMC History, familytreemaker.genealogy.com, Tona Borst-Round Rock High School, RRWC Scrapbook Archives