



Women in God's Service

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10



If you haven't marked your calendars, do so today. The spring ladies' retreat is March 26 and 27 at the Embassy Suites. Be sure to attend because a good time will be had by all!!!

Montez Smith

Throughout her life Montez Smith has trusted in these words: "If it is God's will it will turn out all right, only if it is God's will."



Montez Marie Roller was born in a house upon a hill on a Missouri farm near Seligman on October 27, 1923.

Her second birth occurred at age 18 when she was baptized at Rogers, Ark. There she was a free-lance wallpaper designer and enjoyed time with friends in a sewing club. They celebrated birthdays with parties at the Main Hotel in Rogers.

One friend who had a brother in the Navy Air Force sent Montez' photograph to that brother. "I guess he kinda liked it," Montez says. When Gerald Smith mustered out he looked her up. He enrolled at the University of Arkansas. After his college work the two married on June 2, 1950.

They moved to Tulsa and became the parents of two children. Their son Dale is a graduate of Tulsa University and their daughter Joan became Second Harpist in the Tulsa Philharmonic.

While the children were small Montez devoted her time to rearing them. Later she worked as an aide in the foreign language department at Nathan Hale High School. She moved on to work at Frougs and Borg-Warner before settling in at Centrilift,

later Byron-Jackson.

In 1973 tragedy struck. Joan and little son Chris were in a car crash. Joan was in a coma for a long period before awakening to a life with brain damage. Chris was left without a kidney and spleen. Montez combined career with caring for Joan and Chris. Chris now is married with two sons, Bradley and Derick, both with dimples that Montez just loves.

Montez lost Jerry on May 5, 2005, just 28 days short of their 55th anniversary. They had built a home and moved to Broken Arrow in the Eighties.

Montez is ever writing little stories. After retirement in 1991 she determined that if she could design wallpaper she could illustrate her stories, and does.

Currently she is working to complete a set of eight books in the "House Upon a Hill" series, fiction based on life at the little house where she was born in Missouri. Five are published and three are in progress.

Other works include Samson, The Lop-Eared Rabbit. Ten copies of this book are in Nepal where they are used to teach children English. Montez was inspired to write the book when she and Chris saw a lop-eared rabbit. She describes the work as a child's story to boost a child's belief in self.

She has two religious books to her credit, Half A Dozen Miracles and Half A Dozen Parables. "Miracles" is published and "Parables" is underway.

Montez' maternal roots descend back into church and national history. Her grandfather, G.B. Hancock, was an early-day evangelist who kept a diary of his circuits. It has been published as My Life Is An Open Book. He was a descendent of John Hancock who signed the Declaration of Independence. Grandfather Hancock also authored Mormonism Exposed following his debate with Mormon leaders circa 1902.

Dale settled in Colorado after graduation from TU. He is the father of the star of Montez' life, Suzanne **Starr** Smith. Recently Dale purchased a house at the base of the beautiful Rampart Mountains with space for his mother, Joan and an elderly aunt, Thelma Roller Ramsey. But Aunt Thelma won't be making the move. On December 27 she died at Montez' home.

Montez now is working tirelessly to clear out and sell her home and Thelma's.

In Colorado, Dale has prepared a studio for his mother with a spectacular mountain view. Here she hopes to write Joan's story, Walk the Storm. "If it helps just one family with a brain damaged member it will be worth the effort," she notes. "It's been a long journey."

