



## Rosemary Quinn

January 17, 1899 - January 17, 2009

Rosemary Quinn, of Fort Smith, Arkansas, died in Barling, Arkansas, on Saturday, January 17, 2009, her 110th birthday.

Rosemary was born in Morrilton, Arkansas, on January 17, 1899; she spent her childhood in Vian, Indian Territory, where her father was the freight agent for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. She completed high school in Vian in 1918 and received a Life Certificate for Teaching from Northeastern State, Tahlequah, Oklahoma in 1920.

Rosemary taught grammar school in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, and Nampa, Idaho. In the mid 1920s, she and her late sister, Grace Marie Quinn, moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where they lived and taught school for more than forty years, driving home to visit their family in Arkansas every summer. Rosemary took a special interest in the cowboy life and culture, and she and her students wrote and illustrated poems and stories about cowboys and their lives. She was herself an accomplished horsewoman. She collected American Indian jewelry, especially Navajo silver and turquoise, and wore her Indian necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and concha belt with great care and pride. Rosemary and her sister retired from teaching in the late 1960s and returned to Morrilton, where they built a home and planted a garden of Magnolias, hollies, camellias, and other plants they loved and remembered from their childhood. Rosemary was an enthusiastic naturalist and bird watcher who kept her binoculars and field guide on the table in her sitting room.

When she was in her nineties, Rosemary moved to Fort Smith to be near her

niece, Nancy Bedford Ross. Four generations of her family attended her 100th birthday party in Fort Smith, along with many old friends and relatives from Morrilton and several of her former students from Cheyenne.

She was a lifelong Democrat, told tales of bootleg whiskey flown in to Cheyenne during Prohibition, and was very proud of her Irish heritage; the Irish blessing was among her favorite prayers. She dictated her oral history and donated the tapes to the University of Wyoming, where they are on file and have been transcribed by the American Heritage Center of the University of Wyoming.

Rosemary was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Fort Smith. She was preceded in death by her sisters Anne Quinn, Grace Marie Quinn, Dorothy Quinn Bedford, and her niece Sally Bedford. She is survived by her niece, four great-nieces, and eight great-great nieces and nephews. Funeral mass will be 11:00 a.m. Friday, January 23, 2009, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Morrilton with burial at Elmwood Cemetery by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton.

Memorials may be sent to Fort Smith Public Library, 3201 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903 or Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 506 E. Broadway, Morrilton, Arkansas 72110, or Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 22 North 13th St., Fort Smith, Arkansas 72902.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rosemary Quinn*

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January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *Miss Quinn was an amazing lady. She was friends with my mother in Morrilton. My mother was born in Ireland so they had great times talking about that beautiful country. I vaguely remember her and her sisters in Church on Sundays and wondering why she wore that jewelry as until now I had not heard or either didn't remember her history of Wyoming. I do remember that she never did forget to send my mother a St. Patrick's Day card and that she had such beautiful penmanship. She was a very thoughtful and sweet person and I am sure she is in Heaven now praying for us all!! God Bless her.*

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June 29, 2018 at 11:54 PM



“ *Dear Nancy and Rudd, Rosemary meant so much to so many here in Cheyenne. As a 4th grader at Park Addition in 1949, she instilled in me a life-long love of reading and Wyoming history...she was beautiful with a quick Irish wit. What fun it was to go to school each day! In 1999, I had the privilege of attending her 100th birthday party, meeting again the gracious, amazing woman I remembered from so long ago. Thank you for all the care you gave her. And dear Rosemary, the Good Lord will surely take a liking to you.*

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January 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Good bye to a dear lady that I have know for over 60 years - a wonderful teacher and one whom I have stayed in touch with via mail or phone for about 50 years. coming to her 100th birthday was truly a highlight of my life.  
God Bless her family who have been so good to her especially Nancy and Rudd. And thanks to her good caretakers over the years. I will never forget the 100 yellow roses on her 100th birthday. Wow.  
With love - Bill Dubois

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January 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My father was next door to Ms. Quinn for a few months at Ashton Place last spring, she was such a sweet lady. We loved to see her in the hall all dressed up. It was exciting to read what an adventuresome life she led. I am a librarian and would love to share her stories with my students! What a legacy to leave behind. Our prayers are with you during this time. Debbie Griffin and family

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January 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ IM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. ROSEMARY WAS AN EXTRAORDIARY LADY. I REALLY ENJOY VISITING WITH HER AT WILLOW BROOK. SHE WAS A JOY TO SEE STROLLING DOWN THE HALL. WE WILL MISS HER. GOD BLESS! SANDY MOSBY

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January 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ms. Nancy,  
I am very sorry to hear that Ms. Quinn passed away. I sure did love her with my whole heart. I sure did love taking care of her at Ashton Place I hated that I had to get a job closer to home. But, I visited her several times after I went to the hospital to work. The last time I went to see her she told me she loved me. I have a lot of memories of her. Jessica and myself use to roll her hair on Sundays. She use to love that. I hope God comforts your heart. Love always-Jennifer Madison

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January 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I believe Ms. Quinn taught school at Chaplin grade school in Cheyenne, 4th grade. I remember her as my teacher then. This had to have been about 1955. Always kept a sharp eye out for those in class that weren't behaving!! A great teacher..and touched my life even after all these years!! I will remember her always!!!

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January 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Nancy and Rudd,  
We wish we were there for you during this time. Rosemary was a legend in Fort Smith and we were proud to know her, and now she is with Our Lord in her heavenly home. She was so kind to Mom during their time at Willow Brook together, and she touched many people during her long lifetime. God Bless you and your girls.

Nancy and Bill

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January 20, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To the family of Ms. Rosemary, I am so sorry for your loss. I have fond memories of her and Ms. Grace when I lived across the street from them here in Morrilton. We would visit out in the yard where they spent so much time. She had some great stories and I was pleased to read that some of them had been recorded. What a great tribute to a sweet lady. I used to tease her about her jewelry weighing more than she did and I told her I thought she wore it to keep the wind from blowing her petite little self away. She was so proud of each piece but I remember she was especially fond of her belt and the squash blossom necklace. May it bring comfort to you all that she touched so many lives with her stories and teachings and know now that she is at peace with her sisters in Heaven. God bless..

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January 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM