

Grace A. Strobel Eslick

Interview of Grace Eslick by John McMillan (age 16), a sophomore student at and Gary Steuben (age 17) a junior student at Middle Park High School in 1973. Some information from an article and interview by Andrew Miller and Martin Curry in 1981.

“I was born in Lohman, Missouri, close to Jefferson City, on February 28, 1911. I lived there for 27 years; that was my home. I taught in Missouri for seven years and was paid \$38.50 a month and had to spend \$15 a month for room and board. I came to Colorado on a visit in 1935.”

(Grace was shopping in a store in Grand Lake and Clyde asked her for a date. Grace described her first date, “Clyde picked me up in a pickup he used to take kids to ski meets and different events. We loaded up with kids in the back and went to play ball in Fraser. Then we all drove to the top of Berthoud Pass, returning to Grand Lake later.” The romance lasted three summers leading to the couple’s marriage in 1938.)

In Colorado Grace found a teaching position paying \$85 a month so she was thrilled to teach all eight grades in a log schoolhouse along the Colorado River. “I taught school down in the bottom of Granby Lake. There was a country school called the Knight School because there was the Knight Morris ranch there. It was a little log school house and it had all eight grades there. It would start in April and end in November. We went all summer, summer school, went all eight months in the summer time. I taught there for seven summers. And that was real fun. School started at 9 o’clock.”



“I taught school in Hot Sulphur Springs. Clyde’s mother had gone to school there years before when she was 7 & 8 years old. We had two rooms for the elementary school and one big room for the high school. And I had the girl’s physical education in high school also at that time. There must have been about 40 students in grade school and maybe 20 in high school at that time. Our basketball team, the girls’ basketball team was invited to play in state. They were real good, and they played in that old community building where the washerette is down below. That was their gymnasium at that time. That is where we practiced basketball.”

“I didn’t have any children. I took care of other people’s kids. Those are all my kids. Mike Mikolak from Thailand went to school in Granby. He stayed at our house. He was our kid. He stayed here for two winters. People thought he was an exchange student, but he wasn’t. He was our own business. Now (1973) he is going to his second year of college in Denver. He is still under our jurisdiction. We just help other kids.”

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“I first started teaching when I was 17 years old and I taught right out of high school because in those days you could take a state examination and if you passed it you got a certificate and you could teach on that. I took the exams and got a 2nd grade certificate with an average of 80. An average of 90 got 1st grade certificate and a 70 was a 3rd grade certificate. So I started and then I had two years of college and that gave you an associate degree. Then I went on and finished four years at Central Missouri State University at Warrensburg, Missouri and I had taught three years before I got my degree. Then later I got my masters from Greeley in educational media.”

“My mother and father were very strict back then. What they said at our house went and we didn’t tell them what to do. They told us what to do. And even when I was in my 20s and if they told me what to do, well I did it because I was eating there and living there.

My Dad was a teacher and my mother had been a teacher, my older brother was a school teacher and my younger sister was a school teacher. My brother in law was a teacher too.”

Grace Eslick’s 90th Birthday Celebration

The Grand Lake Music Study Club would like you to join them in honoring Grace Eslick.

Wednesday, February 28, 2001 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Grand Lake Town Hall building.

The Grand Lake Music Study Club will provide a deli tray, coffee, punch and cake. If you would like to bring an hors d’oeuvre to help us celebrate, it would be greatly appreciated.

Grace Eslick was the Grand Lake’s first Town Clerk. Grace was also a Librarian at Grand Lake and Kremmling, a school teacher, a charter member of “The Juniper Club of Grand Lake”, and a member of the Music Study Club since 1956.

If you are unable to attend, send Grace a card.



From the Sky Hi News October 6, 2005

Grace A. Strobel, 94, of Grand Lake Colorado, died October 1, 2005 at Kremmling Memorial Hospital.

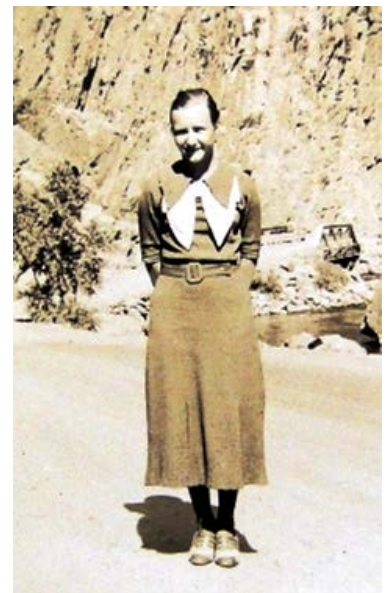
She was born in Lohman, Missouri February 28, 1911 to Charles and Lula Strobel, who preceded her in death. She was married in 1938 to Clyde Eslick who preceded her in death in 1982.

Grace attended elementary school in Lohman, and graduated from Jefferson City, Missouri High School in 1928 and from the University of Central Missouri State Teachers College at Warrensburg, Missouri with a B.A. degree in 1933, and the University of Colorado in Greeley, Colorado in 1969 with an M.A. degree in Library Science.

Grace taught school for 43 years. She taught all eight grades at Rural Central School and also taught in other Missouri towns, Stringtown for two years, Central for one year, and Clarksburg for four years. She was principal of the grade school, taught 7th and 8th grade girls and high school Physical Education and coached a boys' 7th and 8th grade basketball team from 1933 to 1937. During the summer of 1936 she was active in scout work and was counselor at Lin Oak Camp, Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

Grace moved to Colorado and was thrilled to find a teaching position in a log schoolhouse along the Colorado River where she taught all eight grades. She taught 18 years in East Grand County and 17 years in West Grand County. She taught at Grand Lake Elementary School.

In the 1950's Grace spent her summers commuting across the Continental Divide to Greeley, Colorado where she earned her masters degree. She was the head librarian in Kremmling for 17 years, driving almost 90 miles round trip every day.



From the one room Missouri Country school house to a Colorado senior high library, Grace was proud that she missed only two days of teaching during her 43 years in education – and that absence was only because the superintendent discovered that she wasn't feeling well and sent her home.

Grace traveled extensively and covered a lot of the U.S.A. In 1970 and 1977 she and her husband went around the world in a five week and six week period. She traveled in Mexico, Central America, and South America. (While teaching in the intermediate grades at Kremmling, Grace went on a four week study tour of South America sponsored by the National Education Association. They studied the history and culture of the countries of South America under the guidance of Dr. Howard Woolum, professor of education in the University of Denver School of Education. The teachers will receive academic credit for the trip. They will visit Equador, Peru, Chili, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil and Panama.)

Grace served as the Grand Lake's first town clerk, treasurer of the Presbyterian Church and the Grand Lake Area Historical Association, president of Grand County Pioneer Society, president of the Moffat District Federation of Women's Clubs, regent of the D.A.R. for the Middle Park Chapter, and Worthy Matron of Order of the Eastern Star of Middle Park. She was a Girl Scout Counselor in Missouri, Hot Sulphur Springs and Grand Lake.

Grace earned her Colorado Real Estate License and was a member of the Grand County Board of Realtors, the Grand Lake Women's Club, Juniper Women's Club, Presbyterian Church, Music Study Club, Colorado and Missouri Societies of Mayflower Descendants, and the Kappa Delta Pi Society.

She is survived by one sister, Royda May Weber of Lohman, Missouri, nephews and nieces, and many good friends and past students.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Clyde, and one brother Elbert Strobel.

Services are set to take place at 11 a.m. Saturday October 8, 2005 at the Trinity Church in the Pines with Reverend Rob Harrison officiating. A pot luck luncheon follows. Memorial contributions can be sent to Juniper Library or Ladies Guild of Trinity Church in the Pines.

