



Gertrude Madonna Hansen

(1912 -)

Gertrude Hansen was born in Waldeck, Saskatchewan. Following her graduation from high school in 1930, she completed Normal School and then taught grades 1 through 10 while at the same time pursued formal training in music.

She married John Hansen and following the birth of a daughter in 1941 came to Mission. Due to a shortage of teachers in 1943, Gertrude resumed teaching and within a year joined the faculty at Mission High School.

A highly gifted and inspirational musician, she established an outstanding music program at the school over the next decade. She was driven by her belief that “every child should be given at least the opportunity to appreciate music to the fullest capacity.”

Year after year her music pupils won awards for their performances, including one for having “the highest marks of any student choir.” On the side, she taught music privately, conducted several community group choirs and continued her studies in music.

Strongly supporting the concept of being a well-rounded individual, Gertrude also developed many interests outside of music, including tennis, softball, and clay modeling.

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