



Barbara Mary Heptonstall

(1929 -)

Barbara Mary Heptonstall, a native of Mission, was raised on a 325 acre farm in Hatzic Prairie that was established in 1924 by her parents, William and Edith.

The youngest of three children, she attended the one room school in Hatzic Prairie for grades 1 to 8 and then boarded in Mission (Monday to Friday) to attend high school.

Following graduation, she attended St. Paul's Hospital School of Nursing for three years and in 1952 she began working at Mission Memorial Hospital. Family matters drew her back to the farm in 1959 and ultimately, she decided to remain and operate it in partnership with her brother.

In addition to running the house and developing an extensive flower garden, she planted and harvested a large garden of vegetables and fruits, drove the tractor, baled hay, prepared meals for farm crews of up to 12 men, and helped with the dairy herd until it was sold in 1967.

A hospitable and caring individual, Barbara also played an active role in the local community, assisting neighbours and others in need as well as volunteering at the Hatzic Prairie-Durieu Community Hall where she helped decorate, serve food, and clean-up at events held there.

She was also a member of the Mission Garden Club and local square dancing groups - the *Mission Star Thrus* and *Dancing Devils*. Today, she continues to co-manage the farm that in recent years has been used for movies, commercials, weddings, and special events. Being able to share the family farm with so many people has been her greatest source of fulfilment.

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