



Bessie Yang Reid

January 30, 1930 - September 8, 2008

Bessie Yang Reid, a long time resident of South Woodmoor near Monument, CO peacefully passed away Monday, September 8, 2008 following a 14 month residence at Cheyenne Mountain Care Center (CMCC) in Colorado Springs battling Primary Progressive Aphasia, Parkinsonian Disease and Diabetes.

Born January 30, 1930 in Shanghai, China, she was the youngest of seven children born to Alice Yuen and T.Y. Yang. The interesting story of her often difficult "growing up" years in war torn China from age seven through 19 is recorded in her widely read personal memoir book "Daddy's Concubines and Me!" (2000, Author House, Bloomington, IN, 47403).

While attending boarding school during the mid-to-late 1940s at internationally recognized Aurora college for Women in Shanghai, her beautiful natural singing voice came to the attention of the teaching nuns (Madams of the Sacred Heart). Through their sponsorship, she set off with a scholarship to Ireland in early 1949. There she completed a three year period of studies at both Royal Irish Academy of Music and National College of Art in Dublin.

Returning to the Far East, she first taught 4th grade for one year at Sacred Heart International School, Tokyo, Japan. Then, moving to Hong Kong, she served five years as Head, Department of Music and Art, Maryknoll Convent School (International High School of the American Maryknoll Sisters) in Kowloon. She then joined newly formed Hong Kong Airways (a subsidiary of B.O.A. C.) as Senior Stewardess - flying for the next three years throughout the Far East.

In 1959, sponsored as a Catholic refugee by an American family, she came to the United States, settling first in California, then in New York City where she and husband Allan were married at lower Fifth Avenue's Marble Collegiate Church in early 1966. Along the way, in 1964, she became an American citizen.

While living in northern New Jersey during the years 1966-1982 she found new career success in the field of credit management, first with the Good Humor (ice cream) Division of Thomas J. Lipton, Inc., then as National Credit Manager of Lander Co, Inc. During her years with this latter company, a leading New Jersey manufacturer of toiletries, cosmetics, perfumes and household products, she served as an active and respected member of the Board of Directors, Drug and Perfume Group, New York Credit and Financial Management Association.

Since moving to Colorado Springs area in late 1982, Bessie has been active in "Springs Wings" (a local organization of former flight attendants), Mah-jong groups, gardening and book writing.

She is survived by her beloved husband Allan, by two brothers, Julian Yang of Shanghai, and Paul Yang of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, and by several nieces and nephews in USA, Australia and China.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, September 26th at Divine Redeemer Catholic Church, 927 N. Logan Avenue (three blocks west of Union Blvd) in Colorado Springs, CO 80909. A reception following Mass will be held in the Church Community Center.

Both the Reid and Yang families wish to hereby thank the wonderful staff personnel of both CMCC and Pikes Peak Hospice for their skilled and loving care of our "Dear Bessie" over these past 14 months.