

## **Helen Louise Hromada**

Helen Louise Hromada died Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009 in Norman, Oklahoma after a short illness. She was born on February 16, 1910 in Harrisburg, Illinois to Charles and Mildred Gaskins. She married Frank Hromada in 1939 and they moved from Illinois to El Reno, Oklahoma where they raised their family. After Frank's death in 1990, she moved to Norman to be near her family.

Helen was definitely a woman born in the wrong era, always one step ahead of convention. She fished, hunted, and played pool with her grandfather, and wore pants before it was acceptable. Her hands were always busy sewing, knitting and needlepointing as she made gifts for others. Her Christmas ornaments will be enjoyed by many for years to come. Many children in El Reno learned to swim from her as she was a Red Cross instructor for 20 or more years. She was a member of the nation's first women only emergency response team, the Calamity Janes. They responded to many natural disasters across the country. In the last years of her life she lost most of her eyesight and hearing, and books on tape became her constant companion. At almost 100, she still enjoyed doing cryptoquotes and crossword puzzles, spending time with her 19 great-grandchildren and an occasional good bottle of beer.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Frank, her sister, Katherine Pairsh, her daughter, Barbara Rowell and her son-in-law, Gordon Jimerson.

Survivors include her daughters, Katie Harris of Dallas, TX, and Judy Jimerson of Norman, and sons-in-law, Bill Harris of Marietta, OK and Bill Rowell of Yukon. Grandchildren: Jill and Clint Pitzer of Oklahoma City, Tammy and John James of Atlanta, GA, Greg and Courtney Jimerson of Frisco, TX, Becky and Dirk Hoyt of Houston, TX, and Brenda and Jerry Pignato of Norman. Great-grandchildren: Anna, Caroline and Sarah Jane Pitzer; Kat, Andrew, Ali, Kennie and Maggie James; Anthony, Lila and Zachary Jimerson; Travis, Shannon, Shelby and Sam Hoyt; Justin and Jomara Hoyt and great-great-grandaughter, Remy, of Boulder, CO; and Gordon, Ellie and Emma Pignato. The family requests that memorials be given to Oklahoma Library for the Blind, mailing address is Oklahomans for Special Library Services, P.O. Box 53593, Oklahoma City, 73152 or the American Red Cross.

Services will be held Monday, September 28th, 10 AM, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 235 W. Duffy, Norman.

Send condolences online at <http://www.havenbrookfuneralhome.com/Obituaries.htm>