

[Eulogy delivered February 9, 1999 by son, Mark Shuler, following Anne's demise February 7, 1999]

ANNE SHULER

I HAVE THE HONOUR TODAY TO SAY A FINAL FEW WORDS ABOUT MOM.

- ADORED WIFE OF JOHN,
- LOVING MOTHER TO JUDY, BARBARA, AND ME,
- DEVOTED GRANDMOTHER TO JOHN, GARY, JANICE, DANNA, JILL AND CARLY,
- PROUD GREAT-GRANDMOTHER OF HAYLEY, MICHELLE, JACLYN, TOMMY AND BABY BARBIE,
- AND A DEAR RELATIVE OR FRIEND TO MANY OF YOU...

THAT WAS ANNE SHULER.

MOM WAS BORN IN 1910 IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA, TO KAYLA FREUND AND MENDEL BERNSTEIN, HOMESTEADERS. IN 1917, WHEN MOM WAS 6, HER SISTER IDA 4, AND BROTHER HENRY 2, THE PIONEER FAMILY MOVED TO DAYS LAND, ALBERTA. A FEW YEARS LATER, THE BERNSTEIN FAMILY CAME TO EDMONTON, WHERE ZAIDA MENDEL ESTABLISHED A 3RD HAND FURNITURE BUSINESS AND USED HIS CARPENTRY SKILLS TO BUILD SEVERAL FINELY-CRAFTED HOMES, INCLUDING OUR FAMILY RESIDENCE ON 140TH STREET.

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DURING THE 1920S, KAYLA AND MENDEL WERE AMONG THE FOUNDERS OF EDMONTON'S SMALL BUT VIBRANT JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRED AROUND 95TH STREET. MOM ATTENDED ALEX TAYLOR SCHOOL AND VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL. AFTER GRADUATION, WITH HER EXCEPTIONAL TYPING ABILITY, MOM LANDED A JOB AS A TELEGRAPH OPERATOR FOR CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS.

IN THE EARLY 1930S, SHE MET HER BELOVED JOHNNY - A YOUNG MAN FROM CALGARY. THEY COULDN'T AFFORD TO BE MARRIED UNTIL HIS EARNINGS AS A FURNITURE SALESMAN FOR CRESCENT FURNITURE INCREASED FROM \$20 TO \$25 A WEEK! IT TOOK A FEW YEARS (ACTUALLY ABOUT 7) BUT FINALLY THAT GOAL WAS ACCOMPLISHED AND THEY WERE MARRIED IN JUNE, 1937.

MOM AND DAD WERE GREAT DANCERS! EARLIER, MOM AND IDA (THE BERNSTEIN GIRLS) WERE HIGH-STEPPING FLAPPERS, WHO COULD CHARLESTON EVERYONE ELSE UNDER THE TABLE. AFTER MARRIAGE, MOM AND DAD ALWAYS HAD DANCE PARTIES, SWINGING WITH BENNY GOODMAN AND LOUIS PRIMA.

MOM AND DAD HAD GONE TO SEATTLE TO BE MARRIED QUIETLY BECAUSE, IN THOSE DAYS, MARRIED WOMEN COULD NOT BE EMPLOYED AND MOM NEEDED TO KEEP HER JOB. HOWEVER, WITHIN A YEAR A COVETOUS CO-WORKER TATTLED, AND MOM WAS LAID OFF. SO THE EARLY YEARS WERE A STRUGGLE, AS IT WAS FOR MOST COUPLES OF THAT TIME, BUT LIFE IMPROVED LITTLE BY LITTLE AS JUDY, BARBARA AND I ARRIVED. I REMEMBER THAT DAD OFTEN REFERRED TO MOM AS "CHANA THE GOOTAH" (ANNE THE GOOD).

DURING THE 1940S AND 50S, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WERE THE CORNERSTONES OF MOM'S LIFE. WHILE SHE AND DAD RAISED THE THREE OF US, WE ALWAYS MAINTAINED A CLOSE AND LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EDMONTON FAMILY - HER PARENTS KAYLA AND MENDEL, HER SISTER IDA AND THE OSTRY FAMILY, AND BROTHER HENRY'S FAMILY. CLOSE CONTACT WAS KEPT AS WELL WITH THE SHULER CONTINGENT IN CALGARY.

DURING THE 1940S AND 50S, MOM AND DAD (THEN IN THEIR 30S AND 40S) ENJOYED THE WONDERFUL FRIENDSHIP OF MANY LOCAL FAMILIES INCLUDING THE BALTZANS, NEWHOUSES, PODERSKYS, KALENSKYS, MARGOLUSES, KLINES

AND SINGERS. ALSO VERY CLOSE FRIENDS WERE THE CALGARY BONDARS AND HORWITZES.

JUDY HAS HAPPY MEMORIES OF MANY SUMMERS THROUGH THE MID-1950S THAT OUR FAMILY AND THE OSTRY'S SPENT AT PIGEON LAKE, ALONG WITH MANY EDMONTONIANS. AND JUDY ALSO REMEMBERS (AS SHE IS SURE SOME OF YOU DO) THAT MOM - WHO WAS ALWAYS THE EPITOME OF FASHION - EVEN WORE EARRINGS AT THE BEACH!

IN 1961, TRAGEDY STRUCK WHEN DAD DIED SUDDENLY AT AGE 51 OF A HEART ATTACK. IT WAS A WOUND FROM WHICH MOM NEVER FULLY RECOVERED. HOWEVER, SHE GATHERED HER COURAGE, LEARNED TO DRIVE AND BEGAN REBUILDING HER LIFE, WORKING AS A LEGAL ASSISTANT. COUSIN FRAN CAME TO LIVE WITH US FOR TWO YEARS WHILE ATTENDING UNIVERSITY IN EDMONTON, AND SHE AND MOM FORMED A WARM BOND THAT CONTINUED EVER SINCE.

THE MID-60S, WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND JUDY AND GEORGE WERE LIVING IN PITTSBURGH, WERE DIFFICULT YEARS FOR MOM, BUT SHE WAS FORTUNATE TO HAVE HAD LOVING SUPPORT FROM SISTERS AND BROTHERS ON BOTH

SIDES OF THE FAMILY - BENNY AND IDA, HENRY AND DEBY, HY AND RITA, AND MACKIE AND GLADYS.

DURING THE LATE '60S, JUDY AND GEORGE MOVED BACK TO EDMONTON AND MOM WAS ABLE TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH HER GRANDCHILDREN, JOHN, GARY AND JANICE. SHE ALSO REGULARLY VISITED VANCOUVER TO SPEND TIME WITH IDA AND BEN, AND WITH BARBY, LEN, DANNA AND JILL.

FAMILY DINNERS WERE ALWAYS A HIGHLIGHT AND MOM WAS A GREAT COOK. HER FAMOUS BARLEY SOUP AND FRIED CHICKEN WERE TREATS THE ENTIRE FAMILY LOOKED FORWARD TO. MOM WAS ALSO FAMOUS FOR HER CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES AND CHOCOLATE SHORTBREAD FINGERS. THESE WERE CONSTANTLY IN DEMAND BY THE FAMILY AND BAKED BY MOM FOR EVERY BAR OR BAT MITZVAH.

IN HER 65TH YEAR, IN 1975, LIFE DEALT MOM ANOTHER BLOW WHEN SISTER BARBY DIED OF CANCER. AGAIN, IT WAS THE LOVE AND SUPPORT OF FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS THAT HELPED MOM STRUGGLE ON.

DURING THE 1980'S, AFTER THE OSTRYS MOVED TO VANCOUVER, MOM CONTINUED TO ENJOY THE COMPANIONSHIP OF CLOSE FRIENDS. SHE LEARNED TO PLAY BRIDGE AND

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SPENT MANY HAPPY HOURS IN THEIR COMPANY. MOM ALSO BECAME THE DESIGNATED DRIVER FOR NUMEROUS OUTINGS TO BRIDGE, SYMPHONY, OPERA, AND HADASSAH OR NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS.

AS A DRIVER, MOM WAS EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS. YET THE FAMILY REMEMBERS, WITH A CHUCKLE, MOM'S SOLE SPEEDING TICKET ISSUED WHEN A SPEED TRAP CAUGHT HER BOMBING PAST THE PROVINCIAL MUSEUM ON 102 AVENUE. MOM WAS DOING ABOUT 60, SHE, HERSELF, WAS ABOUT 80, AND THE FINE WAS ABOUT 100!

ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE, IT'S IMPORTANT TO SAY THAT DURING THE 1980S AND THROUGHOUT THE 90S, MOM WAS STEADFAST IN HER LOVE AND SUPPORT FOR ME. MY DAUGHTER CARLY, AS THE YOUNGEST GRANDCHILD, WAS MUCH LOVED BY MOM. TWO WEEKS AGO, AT WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE MY FINAL LUNCH WITH MOM JUST A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE HER STROKE, MOM WAS HIGH IN HER PRAISE OF CARLY. MUCH OF THAT SHE ATTRIBUTED TO MY GOOD PARENTING AND, IF THAT'S SO, I KNOW IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE MOM WAS SUCH A GOOD PARENT HERSELF - VERY LOVING, YET QUITE STRICT.

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MOM'S ACTIVE LIFE ENDED IN 1992 WHEN SHE FELL AND WAS HOSPITALIZED FOR WELL OVER A YEAR. SHE WAS THEN ABLE TO HAVE A COUPLE OF GOOD YEARS LIVING AT CANTERBURY COURT. HOWEVER, AS HER FAILING HEALTH REQUIRED MORE CARE, MOM MOVED TO A SMALL, PRIVATE FACILITY, PINE HOME. LIL AND SHABIR QURESHI OPERATE THIS GROUP HOME, AND TOGETHER WITH THEIR STAFF, PARTICULARLY MILA, THEY HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE AS MOM'S CAREGIVERS FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS. OUR FAMILY IS VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THEIR KIND CARE.

BUT EVEN WITH HER INFIRMITIES, MOM WAS ABLE TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY OUTINGS UNTIL TWO WEEKS AGO. IN THE SUMMER OF 1997, SHE WAS THRILLED TO BE WELL ENOUGH TO TRAVEL TO CALGARY FOR THE SHULER/SHAPIRO FAMILY REUNION! AND SHE ALWAYS ENJOYED HER REGULAR VISITS TO JUDY AND GEORGE'S HOME TOGETHER WITH BOBBA ROSE, HER VISITS TO THE JEWISH SENIORS DROP-IN CENTRE, AND GOING TO TEDDY'S FOR A GOOD CORNED BEEF SANDWICH - HEAVY ON THE MUSTARD!

FOR MOM, LIFE HAS NOW COME FULL CIRCLE. MOM HAS PASSED OVER TO JOIN DAD AND BARBY. MOM'S GRANDCHILDREN, ALONG WITH JUDY AND I, GEORGE AND

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LEN AND OUR EXTENDED FAMILY, WILL TREASURE THE  
MEMORY OF "GRAMMA ANNE" - A GENTLE AND BEAUTIFUL  
WOMAN AND A CLASSY LADY WHO NEVER IN HER LIFE SAID  
A MEAN WORD OR HAD A NASTY THOUGHT ABOUT ANYONE. WE  
WILL FOREVER KEEP IN OUR HEARTS THE GLOW OF HER  
WARM AND LOVING SMILE AND DARK BROWN EYES.

BLESS YOU, MOTHER.