

Remembering Freda Sanford

by Betty Wachob

Freda Sanford died last week, peacefully sitting in her chair. She was the victim of a cruel disease known as Alzheimer's.

Freda and Gordon -- it's difficult to speak of one and not the other -- came to Bakersfield from Fairfax, Virginia where Gordon worked with the Forestry Department in Washington D. C. They belonged to a Model A Club there and very naturally joined the Bakersfield Chapter of MAFCA when they settled here.

They were not new to the area as Freda had attended high school in Shafter and moved to Bakersfield with her family when her father suddenly died. Freda worked for the phone company during the war years (1942 to 1945) and met Gordon when he was in the Army Air Corps training pilots at Gardner Field near Taft. Freda often spoke fondly of the years when Gordon worked for the Forest Service, particularly in Oregon and Washington. They had three children during those years but they finished growing up in Fairfax. Freda worked in a fabric shop, later managing it. She also did a stint of selling real estate.

Freda was always fashion conscious and was a fantastic seamstress and tailor. Whenever the occasion called for it the Sanfords dressed in authentic Model A era clothing with summer, spring and winter garments in their closets.

Gordon was among the first to have a home computer and Freda owned one of the fanciest imported sewing machines to be had, both of which were well used by Gordon. Freda and Edwina Barnes were the brains and the workers behind the Model A vests. Several of the club ladies got together to cut out the fabric but it was Freda (and Gordon in later years) who continued to fit and make vests for new members for years.

Gordon and Freda always made it a point to welcome new Model A ers to the club. They attended all of the National Board Meetings that were held in the western states as well as the National Meets every four years. Gordon was on the committee that formed the CCRG and served as editor of their news letter.

Freda has been missed for many years--her gracious manner, her vibrant smile, her expertise with the needle and knowledge of the old Model A clothing and times. She was a real Model A lady who was cared for at home by her husband and Julie, her only daughter.