

RUBY SIMMONS

June 14, 1902 - July 12, 2007



A memorial service has now been set for pioneering Imperial Valley resident Ruby Elsie Kuns Simmons, 105, of El Centro who passed away Thursday, July 12, 2007.

She was born to Miriam Elsie and William Kuns on June 14, 1902 in Illinois. Her father packed up the family and moved to Arizona when she was 1 year old. It was while living in Arizona that she took her first ride in an automobile when she was about 8 years old.

In 1912 at the age of 10, the family moved to Imperial Valley. For the first year, Ruby lived with her parents and younger sister, Opal Eshelman, in a tent southeast of Holtville in the Verde School area. They later moved to the city of Holtville where her father ran the Ideal Grocery store. Ruby graduated from Holtville High School in 1921. She enjoyed telling stories to family and friends of the many hardships of being a pioneer family during the early days in the Imperial Valley.

Immediately after her graduation, Ruby married her husband, Goodrich, and moved to the Los Angeles area. She worked as a supervisor in several small machine shops making parts for war equipment and vehicles during World War II. She took great pride in her ability to serve the country during the war.

Ruby and her husband returned to Imperial Valley in 1968. They were married for 48 years until Goodrich died in 1969. Ruby was an active member of the International Order of Eastern Star and was recently recognized for 50 years with the organization. She held the title of Worthy Matron on two separate occasions. She truly enjoyed attending church and was a member of several groups, including a regular bible study and the "Heart" Club.

Ruby loved to travel and took many trips to exciting locations, including Alaska, Australia, South America and Russia. She will be remembered as a joyful woman who spoke of her many blessings. In fact, she often quoted a well-known poem that stated, "I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed".

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Charles Chu; her son and daughter-in-law, Goodrich and Nancy Simmons and her son, William Simmons. She has numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, August 12 at 2 p.m. at the First Christian Church of El Centro. Family requests donations be sent to the First Christian Church of El Centro.

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