

Jane Welty

August 4, 1923 - October 15, 2019

Jane Ellen (Adcock) Welty joined her heavenly family on October 15, 2019, at 96 years old. She had lived in Camanche, Iowa, for nearly 50 years.



Jane was born on August 4, 1923, in Minneapolis, MN, the only child to William E. (Bill) and Ruth H. (McClymont) Adcock.

Jane was quarantined to her home for nearly a year when she was 5 years old as she had contracted tuberculosis and scarlet fever. Her aunt who worked at the Minneapolis Public Library brought Jane books and taught her to read. Jane would credit this as the beginning of her love of libraries and subsequent career as a librarian.

During the Depression, Jane and her parents moved from Minneapolis to Wauwatosa, Wisconsin; then to Green Bay, Wisconsin; and back to Wauwatosa before settling in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, where Jane graduated from Central High School in 1941. In her high school yearbook, she listed her desire to become a laboratory tech.

She entered the University of Dubuque in the fall of 1941. During her sophomore year at the University of Dubuque, while standing in the class registration line, Jane met a handsome fellow classmate, Roger R. Welty. She was not impressed with his corny jokes, but when he offered to take her on a date to get ice cream, in the car he owned, it led to many altered evening return times in Jane's sorority logbook.

Jane and Roger were engaged before he enlisted in the Army in 1943. Roger left for basic training and came home on leave to marry Jane on July 18, 1944. They began their lives together at Camp Polk, Louisiana, where Roger was part of the 8th Armored Division serving in General George S. Patton's Army. When Roger was sent to Europe in August 1944, Jane would follow her parents to Cincinnati, Ohio. She continued her studies in science and biology at the University of Cincinnati. In later years, Jane and Roger would joke that, for their honeymoon, he took a cruise to Europe, and she went home to her parents.

After the war, Jane and Roger lived shortly in his hometown of Dubuque, Iowa, until Roger enrolled at the University of Iowa. Jane worked at the University library, where she rediscovered her love for libraries. Their first child, Roger Guy, was born in September 1949 in Iowa City. Upon Roger's graduation, they moved to Bettendorf, Iowa, where he had taken a job with the City of Bettendorf. Jane and Roger had their second child, Sandra (Sandi), in December 1951. In 1955, Jane would help found and become the first librarian of the Bettendorf Public Library. After a short stint teaching at the new North Scott School District, Roger accepted the job as principal of the Elwood, Iowa, Schools, where he also taught history. While in Elwood, their son, Kenneth (Ken), was born in October 1957 and Theodore (Ted) followed in October 1960.

In July 1961, Jane and Roger moved in a friend's semi livestock truck to a rented old farmhouse on the corner of Anamosa and Dunn Road in Camanche, Iowa, where he had taken the job as the first full-time principal at the newly established Camanche High School. After her break to raise her family, Jane returned to library work by helping establish and open the new Camanche Public Library in 1965 and becoming the head librarian in 1966, a position she held until 1977. She was a regional librarian for the State of Iowa Library Association until her retirement in 1985.

In 1965, Jane decided the family needed more space and a second bathroom. She chose to look at homes listed for sale to get ideas for an addition to their 4th Street home. A realtor suggested they make a low offer on a 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom house on the Mississippi river she liked. After the year's record flood, owning a river front house was an unpopular choice. Once their offer was accepted, it didn't take long for "Welty's Wharf" to become a frequent and welcoming gathering spot for many boating, ice skating, sledding, scouting, church, and friend and family gatherings. Many "sandbagging events" were to follow, where community friends would join the festivities knowing they would be well-fed and taken care of.

Jane and Roger's life-long love of Mississippi River boats continued to grow at their home as they maintained their welcome and open-door attitudes throughout their lives.

Jane and Roger loved traveling to visits to family and friends. They enjoyed hundreds of trips with well over 40 to one coast or another, along with numerous trips to Minnesota and other Midwest states.

In November 2009, Jane and Roger partially relocated to Cumming, Georgia, so they could be closer to Ken and his family. They were able to return to "Welty's Wharf" in Camanche on several special occasions before their passing.

Jane was preceded in death by her parents; a granddaughter Jennifer, in 1975; her husband, Roger R., in May 2011; and her eldest son, Roger G., in November 2017. She is survived by her children, Sandi Welty DeMango Stilson, Aurora, Colorado; Ken (Joan) Welty, Cumming, Georgia; and Ted Welty, Milwaukie, Oregon; and daughter-in-law Peggy. She had 11 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren at the time of her death.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on August 13, 2022, at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Camanche, Iowa. Visitation will be from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The service will begin at 11:00 a.m. followed by a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Interment at 2:30 p.m. at Clinton Lawn Cemetery.