



## Gracie Cundiff

December 7, 2008

Gracie G. "Sissie" Cundiff, 81, lifelong resident of McClure, Ill., died Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008. Gracie was born in McClure to Benjamin Harrison and Ada Grace Cook Woodard on Dec. 27, 1926. She was a graduate of McClure High School in 1945 and Cape Girardeau Beauty School in 1947. She started her own shop, "Gracie's Beauty Shop," in 1949 and operated there for 20 years. In 1969 she became an instructor at Cape Beauty School for 11 years. Gracie and Russ owned and operated State Beauty Supply until 1974. In 1975 Gracie purchased Park Wood Manor Nursing Home in Cape Girardeau, where she was the licensed administrator 25 years until her retirement at age 70. Gracie was married to Henry Russell DeLisle in 1966 until his passing in 1982. In 1991 she was married to James Alfred Cundiff until his death in 2001. Gracie was preceded in death by four sisters, Elsie Baugher, Marie Cox, Freda Woodard, Norma "Neenie" Rogers; two brothers, Samuel Woodard and John Woodard; three nephews, Richard Baugher, Sammy Woodard and Barry Rogers; and a niece, Shirley Cox. Gracie was an active member of her church, Trinity Lutheran. Survivors include a sister-in-law, Lucille Woodard, and stepchildren from both marriages, including Michael DeLisle, Jerry DeLisle, Sharon Voll and Diane Cooper. Gracie referred to her nieces and nephews as her kids and they always considered her their motherly aunt. Her five nephews include Kerry Baugher, James Cox, Donnie Cox, Michael Woodard and Keith Rogers. Her seven nieces include Earlene Larson, Debbie Shepherd, Sherry Myers, Judy Dillow, Beverly Winans, Diana

Kelley and Donna Disbro. Sissie will always be deeply missed by her family and friends that love her so completely. Sissie's family was her greatest joy. Her happiest times were cooking the big dinner and having the whole gang over. She was always "there" when you needed her. Her strength and courage and generosity, her unconditional love and kindness and profound wisdom will forever be her greatest legacy to her family and to all that knew her. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, December 11, 2008 at the funeral home, with the Rev. Nathan Burgell officiating. Burial will follow in Lindsey Cemetery at McClure. Memorials may be made to Lindsey Cemetery Association.

# Tribute Wall

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“ *Grandma Gracie, As I think of you today, my heart fills with both great joy and great sadness. I look back on the summers spent with you and Grandpa DeLisle as the most fondest of my childhood memories. What fun it was as a kid to be able to ride my bike all over McClure in the hot smoldering heat of summer, sneak over to Lana's house and play her piano, and just sit on the porch swing on Aunt Elsie's front porch and drink sweet tea. I recall how my sister Shelli and I drove everyone nuts by sneaking into the beauty shop and spinning in those fantastic barber chairs. I almost feel dizzy thinking about that. Grandpa and Grandma Gracie used to let Shell and I pick out a new brush from the shop each summer. Mine always had a kind of 1960'ish swirl design on it. I remember thinking how beautiful you were, and how many SHOES you had. It was mind blowing to say the least! You and your shoe collection and Ninnie and her rings...and little girls childhood dream to be able to put on a pair of Grandma's shoes and hit up Aunt Ninnie to be able to wear one of her incredibly gaudy rings. HEAVEN!!! On the days that Grandma and Grandpa would take us to the Mannor were some of the most interesting times. To me, as a child, I felt as if I were in some southern belle movie. The Manor was the grandest place I had ever been. I still remember the woman who was "the cook". She and Grandma were so close and she, as well as the rest of the staff and residents clearly respected both Grandma Gracie and Grandpa DeLisle...they earned it!! I will miss you grandma, however I will rejoice in the fact that you are an angel in heaven and you and Grandpa DeLisle are once again together...the way it should be Forever in my heart, Deidra "DeLisle" Weinert*

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**Deidra "DeLisle" Weinert** - November 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM

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“ *What a great lady, we were all Blessed to know her and learn from her example. We Thomassen's loved her very much as she did us. From the day we met her 22 years ago she was just Aunt Sissie, we never even knew her real name. Donna your Aunt Sissie left you behind to carry the torch and continue her legacy. Rest in Peace Aunt Sissie, your love will be with us forever. Harry, Annie, Erin and Jelica*

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**Annie Thomassen** - September 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM