

HOLLY C. FRYER

Dr. Holly C. Fryer, age 95, of Manhattan, died early Sunday morning, November 7, 2004, at the Mercy Regional Health Center in Manhattan.

He was born on December 6, 1908, in Carlton, Oregon the son of Lewis Eugene and Daisy (Nichols) Fryer. Dr. Fryer, former head of the department of statistics at Kansas State University, received his B.S. from the University of Oregon in 1931, his M.S. from Oregon State University in 1933 and his Ph.D. from Iowa State University in 1940.



He joined the K-State faculty in 1940 where he served as assistant professor, associate professor and later professor. From 1940-46 he served as statistician for the K-State Agricultural Experiment Station. From 1944-45 Dr. Fryer took leave from Kansas State to become an associate mathematician for war research with the National Defense Research Committee at Columbia University. Upon his return to Kansas State in 1945, he was instrumental in the establishment of the K-State Statistical Laboratory, for which he served as director and professor of mathematics. In 1959, he became the first head of the newly established department of statistics, a position he held until 1975. In 1967, when a need for a program in computer science became apparent, Dr. Fryer was asked to initiate this program. His success was evident when an independent department of computer science was established in 1971. Dr. Fryer retired from Kansas State in 1979.

His professional memberships and activities were numerous and included: the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Biometric Society, the Kansas Academy of Science, the Association for Computing Machinery and such honoraries as Sigma Xi, Phi Mu Epsilon, Phi Kappa Phi, and Gamma Sigma Delta. He authored two textbooks on statistics and co-edited numerous articles and publications covering a wide variety of subjects. Following his retirement he authored a book on the history of the development and activities of the department of statistics and statistical laboratory from 1940 until 1990. In 1966, he was honored by being named a fellow by the Committee on Fellows of the American Statistical Association, by virtue of his contributions in the field of statistics, and also was elected a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society of Britain. In 1969, Dr. Fryer was elected President of the Kansas State University Faculty Senate.

In addition to his many contributions to Kansas State, Dr. Fryer was also quite active in the community, taking great care to keep informed on current affairs. He served the city of Manhattan as a commissioner from 1963 until 1967 and as Mayor in 1966-67. He also served many years on the Grant Township Board and the Riley County Rural Water District #1 Board. He was active with the First United Methodist Church where he was a former Trustee. He enjoyed gardening, reading wildlife magazines and articles, playing Bridge, and enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

On May 27, 1934, in Monmouth, Oregon, he was united in marriage to the former Ruth Imogene Parker. She preceded him in death on November 25, 1965. He was also preceded in death by a daughter: Claire Fryer Farris in 2003 and by a brother: Dean Fryer in 1994.

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On December 27, 1966, in Manhattan, he married the former E. Beth Alsup. She survives of the home. Also surviving is one daughter: Gaye Badeker and her husband Roger of Alma, Kansas, five grandchildren: Jennifer Moore, Andrew Badeker, Mathew Farris, Sara Moreano and Rebecca Petkus and nine great-grandchildren: Allison and Emily Lubarsky, Eleanor Badeker, Cole, Sydney and Cooper Moreano and Louis, Joseph and Jack Petkus.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. Monday at the First United Methodist Church, 612 Poyntz Avenue, with Reverend Jim Reed officiating. Interment will follow in the Sunrise Cemetery.

Family and friends may call anytime Saturday and Sunday at the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home.

On-line condolences may be left for the family at www.ymlfuneralhome.com.

Memorials may be made to the K.S.U. Foundation for the Holly C. and E. Beth Fryer Scholarship Fund. Contributions may be left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.