

Neoma A Laken

By Neoma Laken

Neoma Ann Laken was born June 16, 1934 the only child of Palmer and Grace Gast Laken. She was baptized at her maternal grandparent's farm on December 30, 1934.



Neoma began her career at age 17, upon graduation from Breckenridge High School in 1952, as part time paralegal and part time veterans service office secretary. She was appointed Deputy Register of Deeds November 1, 1956, a position she held for 20 years. April 1, 1976, Neoma was appointed Register of Deeds, the name was changed to County Recorder in August 1976, elected to office four times, serving as Wilken County Recorder until her retirement on January 28, 1994, completing 42 years in county government. She is also a licensed abstracter. She never married. Neoma has been very active in church and community activities following a tradition set by her parents. She served two terms as president of her large Lutheran congregation, the first woman to be elected to that position. She taught eighth grade confirmation for many years, taught adult Bible study and has served on many church committees.

Neoma has a twenty-year career as a public speaker in a several state area, doing portrayals of women of the Bible, which she writes. She delivers the speeches in costume and speaks in the first person. She currently portrays fifteen women, Biblical and historical. She also speaks on other topics and was listed in 'Who's Who in America (Midwest) 1994 for her public speaking and writing. While portraying Katie, Mrs. Martin Luther, she carries her grandfather's German Bible and opens the portrayal with a greeting in German.

Neoma has authored several historical booklets and nine historical pageants that are presented in the Breckenridge community. She writes a bi-monthly column for the Breckenridge Daily News and is the unofficial historian of the county.

When Neoma was 20 years old, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She had two major surgeries, radiation and was given a 20% chance of surviving the next five years. She conquered and quotes Luke 12:48 that says 'Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required'. She gives back to her church and community for the second give of life given to her. Neoma views retirement as a new phase of live, a 'second wind' to explore new challenges. She has ideas for writing books, travel plans and escalating her community involvement.