

## Mary D. Rabenold, 71

Mary Dell Rabenold, 71, Montezuma, Iowa, died of cancer Sunday, Oct. 30, 1994 at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, 1994 at Watts Funeral Home, Montezuma. Rev. Brian E. Carter, United Methodist Church, Montezuma, officiated the services. Alice Underwood was organist with music selection of "Majesty; Worship His Majesty." Dick Rabenold sang a solo selection "I Ask The Lord." Congregational hymn was "How Great Thou Art." Honorary casket bearers were Scott Rabenold, Brad Grier, Jordan Fraker, Eric Lloyd and Bret Grier. Casket bearers were Steve Rabenold, Alan Rabenold, Gary Fraker, Terry Lloyd, Joel Grier and Dick Rabenold. Burial was in Jackson Township Cemetery, Montezuma.

Mary was born on June 12, 1923, in Keota, Iowa, the daughter of Harry and Marie Adams Rabenold. She graduated from Oskaloosa High School in 1941 and from William Penn College in 1945. Mary taught school at Attica, Iowa, and also at Montezuma. After teaching for several years, she decided to join her parents and brothers in the family business, Rabenold's Inc. in Montezuma.

Mary was a member of the Montezuma United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women and also was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She was an avid



MARY RABENOLD

golfer and enjoyed bowling and playing bridge.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Mary is survived by two brothers: John Rabenold and his wife Doris; and Dick Rabenold and his wife Ruth all of Montezuma; and also by nieces and nephews, Steve and Kathy Rabenold, Alan and Denise Rabenold, Jo Ellen Rabenold, Donna and Gary Fraker, Mary Sue and Terry Lloyd, Jacki and Joel Grier and Dick and Janis Rabenold; and many great nieces and nephews and other relatives and many friends.

BC - Nov. 2, 1994  
**Mary Rabenold**

Mary Dell Rabenold, 71, of Montezuma, died of cancer Oct. 30, in the Grinnell Hospital. Services are 10:30 a.m. Nov. 3 at Watts Funeral Home, by the Rev. Brian Carter. Burial will be at Jackson Township Cemetery. Friends may call after 11 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home, where the family will greet friends from 7 to 8 p.m.

Survivors include two brothers, John and Dick, both of Montezuma.

## Mary Rabenold

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Funeral services were conducted Thursday at the Watts Funeral Home in Montezuma, with the Rev. Brian E. Carter officiating. Burial was in Jackson Township Cemetery, Montezuma.

The daughter of Harry and Marie Adams Rabenold, she was born June 12, 1923, in Keota. She graduated from Oskaloosa High School in 1941 and from William Penn College in 1945. She taught school in Attica and in Montezuma, later joining her parents and brothers in the family business, Rabenold's Inc. of Montezuma.

She was a member of the Montezuma United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women. She also was a member of the Montezuma American Legion Auxiliary.

Surviving are two brothers, John and Dick, both of Montezuma. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Memorial contributions in her name may be made to the Montezuma United Methodist Church or the Montezuma Library.

M-R November 3, 1994

## Mary Rabenold: A woman with many nats

Montezuma lost an institution with the passing Oct. 30 of Mary Rabenold.

At Mary's funeral last week, her niece, Jacki Grier, of Monroe, read a eulogy which she had composed. Many at the service made positive remarks about it. Here, with the kind permission of the family, is:

"A Woman with Many Hats"  
by JACKI GRIER

Mary, Mary Dell, Sister, Mother Mary, MiMi, Screamin' MiMi — she answered to them all in her deep, raspy voice. During her lifetime of 71 years, she wore a number of hats.

She took great pride in her family, and although she never had any children of her own, she had four nieces, three nephews, eight great nieces and five great nephews whom she loved unconditionally.

She was our sister, our aunt and our great aunt. I personally called her MiMi, a nickname she acquired after nephew Steve was born and he couldn't say Mary.

Mary knew lots of people, but many of them didn't know about some of the hats she wore. They knew her only as a businesswoman, a golfer and a bowler, but she was also an English teacher in her early days. A graduate of William Penn College, Mary first taught at tiny Attica in south central Iowa. She also taught at Montezuma High School for two years before going into business with her mother at Rabenold's Department Store.

There, she was a tireless worker with so much nervous energy. We often teased her about marking each item's price in three or four places when really only one price per item was necessary, and we grimaced when she wrapped a present. She just didn't quite have the knack with the paper and ribbons.

MiMi was into recycling long before it became the "in" thing to do. She recycled sacks and even strangely looking bows that had been ripped off packages. She brought them back to the store — and then we threw them away when she wasn't watching!!

When Ridiculous Days came, she was in her glory and her costume usually won rave reviews.

One costume I remember in particular was a vintage-looking swimsuit with an umbrella hat. Roger Allen took her picture with her lying on the counter in a Cleopatra pose, surrounded by her entourage.

My husband always said, "You haven't been fishing until you've been out in a boat fishing with Mary!" What fun! She just couldn't sit still in the boat.

Of course we told her she scared the fish away, but at "Lake-No-Catch-Em" we never did catch many. Grandma always caught the fish and MiMi didn't, but she never complained. There were always contests for the first, biggest, and most, which she never won, but it didn't matter to her.

For two weeks every summer and one week every spring, Leech Lake was her refuge, a home away from home. She and Grandma vacationed there for years, even after Grandpa died, often with one of her nieces or nephews in tow. Although now it's been years since she has been there, people still remember Mary Rabenold.

We almost lost her in 1981 when she developed an aneurysm on the brain which required risky surgery and was followed by weeks of rehabilitation. Even after saying goodbye to MiMi last Saturday night at the hospital, Cousin Al remarked that she could never shock him as much as after the aneurysm.

Saturday night she had her sense of humor, she had her faculties, she didn't

have her hair, but it didn't make any difference. She asked us about the play-offs, the Hawkeyes, Iowa State, and her great nephews. After the surgery for the aneurysm she couldn't do that. Her strength and her courage carried her back to us then, but it took a long time.

Post-aneurysm Mary wore a different hat. In many ways she was the same old MiMi, but she moved much more slowly. Things that worried her before didn't worry her now.

Then, when Grandma's health started to fail, she and MiMi reversed roles. Grandma had taken care of her. Now it was her turn to take care of Grandma. Since Grandma's death in 1984, she has been a mover, a card player, a traveler, a chauffeur, a Montezuma, North Mahaska and PCM fan, and, sadly, a cancer patient.

Unfortunately, the end came too soon for us. MiMi still had golf to play, books to read, ballgames to attend.

If there's any consolation in her death it's that she spent a wonderful summer playing golf. She felt the best she had in years. In June she and her nephew, Brad, shot a 39 at the couple's two-ball in Montezuma. She played one of her last rounds of golf on a beautiful September day in Monroe with her friends.

I think I'm a lot like my Aunt Mary. She loved to play golf and so do I. She matured early and so did I. She was an English teacher and so am I. She hated to cook and so do I.

She never wanted a whole piece of pie. "Just a half," she would say. As I cut into Irene's apple pie last night, I found myself saying, "Just a half."

Now, if I can just be the kind, hard-working, funny, loyal, courageous, loving and generous person she was, maybe one of her hats will someday fit me.

M-R November 9, 1994