

Memorial Minute for Grace Baker

(Grace Ferrier Baker, 83, died on September 5, 2000, at Pickering Manor. She was born in Eureka, CA, and was a resident of Newtown for 61 years.)

Over the years, Grace Baker spoke many times of her childhood in a happy, loving home with devoted parents. Although a single mother, she determined to have that same kind of home. With strength and love she created a haven for her three children and her dear mother, "Fra". In addition, her former mother-in-law was welcomed on most weekends as well as for all "state occasions" and holidays. It was an atmosphere filled with laughter, ease and good will.

Her wide group of friends was fiercely loyal to her and would gather at her home, for example, to paint a room the night before a party she had just decided to have.

Grace held two jobs for much of the time, but still went to all the school functions her children were involved in. All of this was in a period where single motherhood was not a totally acceptable way of life.

In Newtown Monthly Meeting, Grace gave many hours working with the committee on financial oversight as well as at Newtown Friends School where her children attended.

Although in her last few years her mental health unfortunately deteriorated, she was until then a true-blue friend and neighbor. Her life is, indeed, one to celebrate.

Jane-Rae Millard

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