



Photograph by Whitmire Associates of Yakima, WA.

Enduring Legacy of Love



Central Washington
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Central Washington

Catholic Foundation



Spring 2005

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Daughter Reflects on Mother's Legacy

by Kathleen Forman

oldest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. David Mahre

A desire of Mary Ellen Chott-Mahre, before she passed away in 1993, was to be able to help students go on to higher education at Catholic institutions. Today, that is a reality through the Mary Ellen Chott-Mahre Memorial Education Scholarship Fund, with the help going to students of Naches Valley High School, who are members of St. John Catholic Church in Naches.

Mary Ellen's love for the Catholic faith and learning came with birth. She was born into a full-blooded Bohemian family whose ancestors' Catholic faith goes back to their days in Bohemia. By nature, Bohemians are people of culture, known and admired for their achievements in art, literature and music. They are also distinguished for public spirit.

Her ancestors came to the United States in 1850, bringing with them their natural, inborn desires to better themselves in life. They settled in the St. Louis, MO, area and began the process of becoming Americans. There, Mary Ellen's parents, Ferdinand and Mary Ellen (Koupal) Chott were born.

Her parents had formal education to the eighth grade. With that inborn desire to learn, both went on to take correspondence courses. Her father got his high school education and a degree in steam engineering. Her mother was educated in the arts. The Yakima-Tieton Irrigation project brought Mary Ellen's parents to the West Valley area of Yakima. They moved there in 1920, purchased some sagebrush land, and began the process of turning it into orchard land.

Mary Ellen was born in 1927; the sixth of what came to be eight children. She delighted her eleven-year-old sister Rita, who was the only girl up until then. That bond lasted throughout her life.

Life was not exactly physically easy in those years, and the entire family worked together to get by. They had no indoor plumbing or electricity. That came later. They raised cows, pigs, and chickens, so to have milk, eggs, and meat. The "ice box" was in an irrigation ditch, and she had fond memories to tell about that. Work in the orchards also provided her with fond memories, and her mother's thoughtful, kind heart to make and take fresh lemonade out to the workers on hot days, brought tears to her eyes when she told of it. Her father's workhorses were not quite the riding kind of her dreams.

Her lovely parents, with their high standards, saw to it that their eight children got a Catholic education. Even though they lived out in the country, they faithfully took them to Yakima to attend St. Paul Cathedral Grade School, St. Joseph Academy, and Marquette High School.

Mary Ellen enjoyed singing and had an extra nice voice for it. She loved the Latin Mass, and missed it in her later years of life. Chemistry was her favorite class in high school, she always said. She loved to read, thus educating herself far beyond her twelfth grade education. Having finished high school, she thought it would be fun to bicycle across the United States. It did not happen...



Though Mary Ellen Chott-Mahre stayed home with their nine children when her husband David Mahre twice attempted to climb Mount Everest, she was a skilled mountain climber in her own right.

Trips to St. Louis to visit relatives were a highlight of her life, and another learning experience. That city, with its culture, was a fun, spirited place she liked to be. She was thrilled to go to the theater and St. Louis Cardinals baseball games.

Her fineness and purity of thought, along with her cheerfulness, are a testament to the character and quality of her parents, and their grandparents before them. The nuns and priests at the Catholic schools played a big role in her life, too. She spoke of them with fondness. They set her on a rock solid course in life, looking for what's "down to earth" and "real." She was content with what God provided, and "made do".

She wanted to be a fruit farmer's wife with six children — three boys and three girls. God blessed her with the fruit farmer by the name of David Mahre in 1947 and they had nine children!

She never thought she would go to Europe, but God provided that, too! Her last trip, in 1990, was a trip to visit the homeland of her ancestors. She saw the house where her grandfather Koupal lived, and the chapel where her Koupal great grandparents were married.

Her Bohemian heritage was dear to her and influenced her greatly. It put pep in her step just to talk about it and her eyes would light up. Not everyone knows — where Bohemia is? Or, what Hoska is?

Central Washington Catholic Foundation

Investments Quarter Ending December 31, 2004

Education Funds

Amos & Elsie Gamache	\$ 135,576
Mary Ellen Chott-Mahre	41,751
Mark L. Kranz	21,323
Msgr. William J. Sweeney	841,574
St. Joseph School, Kennewick	119,956
St. Joseph School, Wenatchee	124,443
St. Paul Cathedral School	158,505
St. Rose of Lima School	104,675
William A. & Mary M. Hambelton	28,090
William L. & Mary A. Tyrrell	182,919

CWCF Funds Under \$21,000 \$ 49,027

Parish Funds

Holy Family	\$ 197,855
Poulin Holy Family	124,850
Rosa, Lena, Louisa Orlando	157,998
St. Joseph Yakima	111,645
St. Paul Cathedral	60,986

Seminarian Funds

Bittner Burse	\$ 119,280
Edmond & Blanche Poulin	115,581
Thomas & Nancy Mahony	127,644
Robert G. Geier	65,025
Seminarian Education	43,156

Total Central Washington Catholic Foundation Fund \$ 2,931,859



Dr. Thomas D. Mahony
2004-2005 Board of Trustees Chair

CWCF Continues Steady Expansion

The *Central Washington Catholic Foundation* starts the spring of 2005 with continued steady expansion. The total balance for all Foundation funds has increased to \$2,931,859. In just two short years the Foundation has grown over \$700,000.

This economic development has been, in large part, because of our donors and their generosity. With their help, the mission of the Foundation continues to help Catholics in Central Washington.

Another reason for our positive progress has been from our lay leaders. Guided this year by Dr. Thomas Mahony, 2004-2005 Chair of the Board of Trustees.

His leadership and example have shown great wisdom and insight.

The Foundation thanks all those who make this such a growing institution.

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We thank former member Mr. Edward O'Claire for his service to the Board.

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CWCF Thanks the Generosity of Our Donors

(October 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004)

In compiling this list of donors, every effort has been made to insure that there are no omissions or spelling errors. If any mistake has been made, please accept our apologies and bring it to our attention.

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Fundación Católica de Washington Central Continúa con una Expansión Constante

Como empieza la primavera del año 2005, la *Fundación Católica de Washington Central* continúa con una expansión constante. La balanza total de todos los fondos de la Fundación ha crecido a \$2,931,859. Durante sólo dos años cortos, los fondos de la Fundación han aumentado más de \$700,000.

Este desarrollo económico ha sido en gran parte debido a nuestros donantes y su generosidad. Con su apoyo, la misión de la Fundación continúa ayudando a los necesitados entre los Católicos de Washington Central.

Otra razón por nuestro progreso positivo ha sido el apoyo de nuestros líderes laicos, dirigido por el Dr. Thomas Mahony, el presidente de la Junta de Fideicomisarios por 2004-2005. Su liderazgo y ejemplo han mostrado gran sabiduría y perspicacia.

La Fundación da gracias a todos aquellos que avanzan el crecimiento de esta institución.

This newsletter is published by the *Central Washington Catholic Foundation*. For more information about our Foundation please contact

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