

Mangel, Rita Feldhaus 1920 - 2007



Kentucky Post – November 3, 2007

Rita Feldhaus Mangel, led full life

Rita A. Feldhaus Mangel's life was a tapestry of creative talent, traveling, tastes and taking care of her family. "A wonderful mother," said her daughter, Paula Moss, of Florence, adding that she was an "excellent cook, (an) excellent seamstress."

Ms. Mangel died Thursday morning at the Florence Park Care Center. She was 87.

Sewing was one of her mother's greatest talents and joys, Moss said. Ms. Mangel worked at Shillitos, which was absorbed into Lazarus and later Macy's, for around 15 years, altering wedding dresses and other clothing. She left her job before Lazarus took over Shillitos, moving to Saks Fifth Avenue. Although her job had changed, her position hadn't. For her three years there, she continued modifying attire for women - including her daughter. "She made all my wedding party's gowns," Moss said. "Anything with sewing she could do." But wedding attire wasn't the only clothing Ms. Mangel would create for her children. She also knit would their everyday clothes, Moss said. Besides sewing, Ms. Mangel's talent extended to the kitchen as well. According to her daughter, Ms. Mangel hosted all family get-togethers and prepared meals for her family. "She just cooked for everybody," Moss said. "She made her own goetta, and pies."

After her retirement, she traveled with her family to Hawaii. "She liked Maui the best, just liked the beach," she said. "Everything was so pretty there." She was especially fond of Nashville, especially Opryland, and Niagara Falls' winter frozen façade. She also joined the Elsmere Senior Citizens, who traveled to other locales, including Washington D.C., and provided with the opportunity to enjoy another favorite pastime, card games such as euchre and poker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Leslie Mangel. In addition to her daughter, Ms. Mangel is survived by sons, Leslie Mangel of Edgewood and Jim Mangel of Florence; six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian burial will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Henry Church, Elsmere. There will be no visitation. Burial will be in Highland Cemetery, Fort Mitchell.

Memorials are suggested to Hospice of the Bluegrass-Northern Kentucky, 1403 Alexandria Pike, Fort Thomas, Ky. 41075.

Middendorf-Bullock Funeral Home, Erlanger, is handling the arrangements