Anstensen, Linda

August 18, 2007



Linda Anstensen

Linda Anstensen, the only child of Dr. Ansten Anstensen, MBE, and Mildred Edna Anstensen, died October 21st, 2007, at Extendicare Nursing Home in Moose Jaw, at the age of 72 years. Linda, who was born in Saskatoon, with Down's Syndrome, lived in Moose Jaw for most of her life at Valley View Centre and later at the home of Mrs. Sandra Hamon until she entered Extendicare Nursing Home. While her parents played significant roles during World War II, Linda lived first with her maternal grandparents, Mathias and Emilia Olsen, on Staten Island, New York, and then at Miss Chesebro's School in Oneonta, New York, when her grandparents bought a house near Cooperstown, New York. Dr. Anstensen was named Member – Order of the British Empire, while Acting Lieutenant-Commander, RCNVR/Naval Control Boarding Service, in recognition of his development of strategies for expediting maritime shipping as part of the war effort. He also worked with Norwegian Resistance in England, interviewing sailors and survivors, and conferring with the King. Mrs. Anstensen, during the war, was Secretary to the Commander of Norwegian Forces in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Dr. Anstensen was

born near Skien, Norway, the home of Norway's famous playwright, Henrik Ibsen, and Dr. Anstensen's doctoral dissertation at Columbia University was published as The Proverb of Ibsen. As a young teacher at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, he was one of the original translators of Rolvaag's Giants in the Earth. The effort involved translating proverbs and folk expressions into English, where there often were not obvious equivalents. Dr. Anstensen founded the German Department at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Edna Anstensen, as she was known, compiled, with Fife, A Summary of Reports on the Modern Foreign Language published in 1931. With this background of both husband and wife, Dr. Anstensen served with the British High Commission for Germany, reviewing revisions in Germany University education in the immediate post war, post Nazi period. Dr. Anstensen was briefly a member of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations 15th Session, beginning in September 1960 until the fall of the government in Ottawa. Dr. Anstensen founded a bursary in Linda's name at the University of Saskatchewan to provide funds for a needy student of the German language. Placing of Linda's cremated remains will take place at Woodlawn Cemetery, Saskatoon in her father, Dr. Ansten Anstensen's grave.