

ROSE MALEY - AN APPRECIATION: Rose Maley was born Rose McCamley in Dalmarnock and although she died at the Royal Infirmary Glasgow she lived at that time in Cambuslang just a few miles away. These short miles hide the variety of her life and her huge appetite for enjoying it. Those who knew her recall her capacity for recalling incidents from all of her 71 years with humour and affection. Nothing ever happened to Rose that was ordinary. From her days in Chemist shop in Bridgeton, through her time as a Teacher and then in her travels, things would happen around her and she lit up many an evening recounting them with relish and glee. Her tales were never against anyone (except perhaps herself) and were always punctuated by her own infectious laughter to the extent that even those who shared her experiences laughed anew.

Rose was born in Dalmarnock in 1932 to Margaret and John McCamley. She and her two sisters and brother grew up in the traditional room and kitchen. She was educated at Sacred Heart Primary and "Charlotte Street" Secondary and attended Sacred Heart and later Our Lady of Fatima Churches where her strong practical faith was nurtured. She did the door-to-door "collections" which formed the basic income of the church in the 1940's and later served in the Legion of Mary. It was also in Our Lady of Fatima that her twin talents of Singing and Drama were founded. These served her as hobbies right up to her death. She sang in the Church Choir and took part in Church Hall Pantomimes. Later she joined the famous Sacred Heart Drama Club and enjoyed several years acting with the likes of Frank Wylie, Phil McColl and Joe Brady who became professional and many others she recalled who were equally good but who elected to do other things.

She loved her life in Dalmarnock and recalled among many other things the night "they bombed the Power Station" Rose started out to become a Pharmacist but soon switched to take up her career as a Primary School Teacher. She loved her training at Notre Dame College which inevitably bred tales of sewing and stuffed animals not to mention first encounters with some very strong characters when out on "Block" training. She talked fondly of the long final holiday she took with her colleagues when they traveled overland to visit many places in Italy and sailed on to Greece - everything being organized by a nun who was a relation of a well known "Chocolate" family and who left boxes wherever they stayed.

Rose's first appointment was to Blessed John Ogilvie in Easterhouse and many years later she was one of many Glaswegians who traveled excitedly to Rome for that Saint's canonization. It was during this time that she joined the "Patricians" a light opera Society which performed for several years in the Rutherglen Repertory Theatre where Rose had some years previously taken dancing lessons. Rose sang roles such as Katisha and Dame Carruthers. It was here that she met her husband, claiming she had seen him in his kilt as a scoutmaster months before he joined the club and eventually met her. They married in 1966 having seen each other most nights for the two previous years when they had become "serious". Tommy walked home every night from Dalmarnock to Crofffoot claiming that Rose was in her bed before he turned the corner out of Sunnybank St!

After marriage they moved to East Kilbride and Rose was one of the founding staff of St Leonard's School. This was the first of two happy spells she had at that school where she is fondly remembered by staff and parents and pupils alike. Rose was an inventive teacher always receptive to new ideas but always aware of the need to teach the basics. She always "took in" the new infants and few of them cried for their mothers more than a day. The late Jimmy McCourt her Headmaster claimed that he had the best School in Lanarkshire because he had the best Staff. Again her life was full of stories - stories of missing hamsters, glass windows falling in, of star pupils, of "messages" not being relayed and of much else.

Having left the "Patricians" Rose and Tommy now joined the Glasgow Archdiocesan Choir, which gave Easter and Christmas Concerts many with Rose as soloist. The highlight of this period was a visit to Rome with the choir when they sang - much to his Holiness's enjoyment - Vivaldi's "Gloria". In 1972 they both joined "Our Lady's High School Former Pupils Association Light Opera Society" in Motherwell and Rose began a long and enjoyable life with them. Her voice was well suited to parts like the Duchess of Plaza Toro, which she played in her first show. She went on to play many parts, including Ciprah in the award winning Waterford performances of "Gipsy Baron", Queen Elizabeth in "Merrie England", the eponymous role of the Grand Duchess (sharing this with Anne McGeough), Calliope in "Orpheus in the Underworld" and many, many, more. In truth though Rose just loved being in the Society particularly in the company of her fellow altos. She loved her singing and was happy to sing leads or chorus.

Watching the video of Rose's last show with the Society - the April 2003 revue "This One's For You" - it is impossible to believe that Rose was by then 70 and had a pacemaker. When there were occasions when she could not go on stage Rose took on the job of Property Mistress with distinction for a couple of years and latterly could be seen torch in hand ensuring audiences were safely seated. During her first spell at St Leonard's Rose took further teaching qualifications including a "Froebbel" with distinction and was soon promoted to Assistant Head teacher and opened the new St Bride's School in Bothwell. Here again Rose endeared herself to Staff and pupils alike. She claimed that she spent all those years leaning from the redoubtable Bridie O'Neill. She returned for a second spell at St Leonard's in a promoted position and was enjoying this second spell when "cuts" meant her leaving and going to St Anne's Cadzow when her career ended due to ill health in 1985. Asthma was diagnosed (although Rose never quite believed that that was all that was wrong) and was kept at bay for some years. While she would never admit to being an invalid her health certainly deteriorated in the mid 1990's and after many visits to the Cardiology unit at the Royal she was fitted with a pacemaker in 1998 and in biggest story of her life, discovered that she had had a hole in her heart since before birth! Pacemaker fitted she attacked life again.

When Rose retired she took up photography and spent many happy days with her Canons and Minoltas. Every Friday for many years she and Tommy would attend classes at Oakfield Avenue and go on "field" visits every Saturday Morning when copious tea and food were taken along with photos! She had hundreds of photos of Holidays and Shows and Family and Church events which were to be sorted out one day but which like all her many collections of things were meanwhile in an order known exclusively to Rose. Latterly she had a digital camera and the computer to go with it but really was not convinced of the validity of digital photography although she approached it with her customary enthusiasm. About 5 years before she died Rose took up Watercolour painting and the house is now adorned with her magnificent efforts at this the gentlest of all her pursuits. She loved her weekly art class at Hamilton's Inkspot and as was her wont regaled her fellow artists with joke after joke. Rose maintained her association with Church music over the years and sung solos with Our Lady of Good Aid Motherwell choir as well as being a Cantor in St Bride's Cambuslang.

Holidays abroad were favourite with Rose although she always had to "get a fix" with weeks or weekends as far to the North and West of Scotland as she could. Spain and Greece had been early loves but she finally decided that abroad meant only one thing. - Garda Town on Lake Garda. "Garda, Garda" as the boatmen had it. She loved sailing on the lake steamers to Limone or Sirmione. She enjoyed the mammoth ice creams to be had by the lakeshore. Most of all she enjoyed her trips to the opera at Verona. Ask Rose about the night Pavarotti was booted of the stage!! She and Tommy had booked their holiday there this year. Three trips to America where she met Richard and Pat were always treasured by Rose. Pat engineered marvelous trips in Canyonland and next time in northern Wisconsin. The Helicopter flight over the Grand Canyon!!

Rose enjoyed her life to the full. There is not one picture of her which does not show her with anything but a genuine unforced smile. Her laughter filled every room she entered. She loved trying out things - cameras - lenses - paints - brushes - computers - word processors. She has diaries of most of her holidays. She had a thirst for knowledge and her rooms are full of books on this, manuals on the next, and guides to everywhere she and Tommy went. Life was for living and was not a rehearsal. When God called her, he in his infinite mercy did not prolong her dying in any painful way. We who were with her wept but her final breaths were gentle and easy. She took her laughter with her. She loved people and people loved her as was evidenced by the massive turn out at her funeral. It was impossible not to enjoy life when Rose was about. For some it is going to be very difficult to enjoy life now she is gone. Rose Maley, born 14.12.1932 died 21.7.2004 and is survived by her Husband Tommy, her sisters Margaret and Bridget and her brother Joseph. *TJM*



Rose in all her finery as The Duchess of Plaza-Toro