

Community loses benefactor

■ Emma Lou Hariman dies at 95

By Naomi Dunavan
Herald Staff Writer

In January, Emma Lou Hariman delivered a speech her listeners considered "stunning," said Capt. Mike Caudill of the Salvation Army.

"It was direct, it was from the heart and more than anything, it expressed her deep commitment to others."

It was the night 95-year-old Hariman received the "Others" award given to those who have given exemplary service to the Salvation Army.

Hariman's service began more than five decades ago when she befriended a young, single, pregnant woman. She took the woman to the Salvation Army for assistance and was so impressed with the Army's willingness to help, that she decided to volunteer for the organization.

Hariman remained dedicated to the Salvation Army for more than 50 years.

"She not only volunteered through the Thrift Store," Caudill said, "she served on our advisory board and was instrumental in helping us purchase the building our thrift store is in."

Leaving her mark

But it wasn't just the Salvation Army that reaped Hariman's time and talent. She left her mark in nearly every corner of Grand Forks because, as she once wrote, "Service is the watch word. We are put on this earth to help others."

Hariman died Thursday, May 4, 1995, in Good Samaritan Nursing Home, East Grand Forks.

"There would be no historical grounds on Belmont Road without Emma Lou Hariman," said Pat Owens of the mayor's office. "She worked diligently on that. She worked for many years to get funding (for the Myra Museum) and she worked religiously with the Campbell House to get it moving. And, the gazebo, there was one of her dreams."

Something else that wouldn't be here if not for Hariman's leadership is the little chapel in Memorial Park Cemetery, Owens added. "It's the most beautiful little chapel. She worked with the community development office and she was one who would not give up. If she believed in it, she kept on."

John O'Leary, of the Urban Development office, said Hariman "footed" much of the bill for the restoration of the little chapel in 1989. But, when it came time to put up a plaque, Hariman wanted others in the community to receive the credit.



Hariman

"She was one who quietly assumed a leadership position," O'Leary said. "It was hard to say no to Mrs. Hariman. She was very persuasive, but in a nice way. I have a lot of respect for her. It's difficult to put into words everything she was involved with in this town. I don't know how many kids at UND that she helped in quiet ways, with tuition and a place to live. She always did what she did in a quiet, unassuming way."

Hariman was awarded Sertoma Club's Service to Mankind award in 1980. She received the Alexander Griggs award in 1986 because of her activity in local historical efforts. She served as president of the International Association of Rebekahs and, in that capacity, traveled to all 50 states and several foreign countries. She met Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Richard Nixon, Dwight Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan.

Dedicated to church

She and her late husband founded and refurbished the Grand Forks Greek Orthodox Church. She chaired the L.I.S.T.E.N. Center board for several years and raised funds for the L.I.S.T.E.N. choir to attend its first music festival. She raised funds to send a young man to the National Olympics for the Handicapped and she once did volunteer work in a hospital in Africa.

The Rev. Gretchen Graf said Hariman was very committed to her church, First Presbyterian. "She certainly was very faithful in her attendance and cared very much about the people here. She baked the communion bread for years and prayed over the bread while she kneaded it. It was very special bread."

Her life

Emma Lou Cowger Hariman, was born June 29, 1899, in Morganfield, Ky., the daughter of Robert and Zorah Cowger. She grew up in southern Illinois. Her father was a Presbyterian minister. Her mother died in childbirth when Emma Lou was 11, so she helped raise her six younger brothers and sisters.

She married Dr. George E. Hariman on Jan. 14, 1923, in Aurora. They lived in Park River, N.D., before coming to Grand Forks in 1924, where they built the Hariman Chiropractic Hospital and Clinic. In later years, it was donated to UND. Dr. George E. Hariman died Sept. 13, 1977.

Survivors include son, Dr. Donald G. Hariman, Grand Forks; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters.

■ **Services:** 10 a.m. Monday in First Presbyterian Church, Grand Forks.

■ **Visitation:** 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday in Amundson Funeral Home.

■ **Burial:** Memorial Park Cemetery.