

UND, GF will miss Margaret Barr

By Carol Graham
Herald Staff Writer

Through her whole life, Margaret Barr continued to make contributions to the growth of UND. She retired in 1975 as professor emerita of business and vocational education.

Barr died Monday, May 16, 1988, in The United Hospital. She was 83.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday in St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday in Amundson Funeral Home.

The family requests that memorials be designated to the Paul E. Barr Memorial Fund for the Visual Arts at UND.

Barr and her family dedicated 89 years of service to the university. She had grown up as part of the faculty family. Her father, Orin G. Libby, was head of the history department for 43 years, and her husband, the late Paul E. Barr, was head of the art department for 25 years.

In addition to those 89 years of teaching by the three professors, the Libby and Barr families made lasting contributions in history, art and community service to UND, the state and beyond its borders.

"She was a warm and caring person and had infinite patience," said her son, Robert Barr of Mandan, N.D. "She was an excellent teacher, and



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her students loved her. I was always amazed years later when her students returned to visit her," he said. "They were her friends."

Margaret Libby was born Sept. 8, 1904 in Harriman, Tenn., the daughter of Dr. Orin G. and Eva Libby. She grew up in the faculty community and told her children of being entertained at the UND President's home, always a formal affair for children who wore patent slippers and white

gloves.

She earned degrees from UND in commerce and business education and later taught in the Bemis public schools.

After marrying Paul E. Barr June 8, 1932, in Grand Forks, they lived at 2908 University Ave. The home now belongs to UND. She had lived the past year at Tufts Manor and recently had moved to Valley Memorial Home Medical Park.

After her husband's death Dec. 22, 1953, she began a 21-year teaching career in the business education department.

Barr's father was a prominent UND history professor for 43 years and had a national reputation as a historian. He had come to North Dakota in 1902 from Wisconsin and taught at UND until 1945. His doctoral thesis on the geographic distribution of the vote has been reprinted twice and still is being used as a resource.

With this background, history and its preservation was no stranger to Barr. She was very well-organized, according to her son.

Her work had included research and co-authoring with her son, and UND art professor, Donald H. Miller, "University of North Dakota Pottery: The Cable Years," in 1977 and assisted in the publication in 1953 of "North

Dakota Artists," written by her husband. She also had composed "A History of St. Paul's Episcopal Church."

In 1987, Barr was awarded the Elwyn B. Robinson Award for preservation of North Dakota history for establishing the Cable Pottery Collection at the UND Hughes Fine Arts Center, and the President's Award for outstanding service to UND. She was awarded the Charles DeBruyn Kops Award in 1974 for excellence in teaching and loyal service to UND.

The pottery collection represents nine years of research. It represents more than 80 years of pottery production under the direction of Margaret Kelly Cable. Its pieces are valued by collectors throughout the United States. Themes in the work reflect native flowers, Indian motifs, cowboys, buffalo and pioneers.

Her civic and social memberships included Chapter D of the PEO Sisterhood, the Franklin Club, Round Table Club, National Retired Teachers, Pi Lambda Theta, Alpha Phi, UND Faculty Wives, Business and Professional Women and business and vocational education honoraries.

Survivors are her son, Robert, Mandan; daughter, Martha (Mrs. Joe) Liebert, Bernalillo, N.M.; four grandchildren; and brother, Charles C. Libby, Columbus, Ohio.