

Jean Williams McKenzie

- Born in La Grande at her grandmother's house, 1910
- Family roots in Imbler business (banking) and farming
- Attended Imbler grades 1-4, then to LG Central and up
- Graduated LHS
- Active in Girl Scouts, enjoyed basketball and swimming
- Graduated from UO in 1934 with teaching degree, attended EOU as well
- Taught School in Cove and La Grande - English and Drama, directed plays
- Participated in La Grande Little Theater as young woman
- Joined Red Cross during WWII for both patriotism and adventure
- Was sent to Europe as a "recreation specialist" (England and France)
- Worked in hospitals and a doughnut shop
- London, England - V-2 bombing raids all over
- Bar le Duc, France - Battle of the Bulge
- After she came home she set up the Recreation Program for OSU Extension
- No longer wanted to teach - it was boring, children seemed undisciplined and war had changed her
- Small wedding to Glen McKenzie in 1947, from longtime local farming family
- Loved gardening - tulips, pansies, irises, petunias, sweet peas were faves

Immersed in civic life:

- Director of Gamma chapter of Beta Sigma Phi (social sorority) for about 15 years
- Involved in Cow Belles - promo group for cattlemen, local and state leadership
- Very active in AAUW - American Assoc. of University Women - local and state leadership
- There is also an AAUW scholarship names for Jean McKenzie
- Served on EOU Foundation
- Participated in OSU Extension programs until the end
- **Very active in Soroptimist - past president, Woman of the Year**
- **"Jean really loved the Soroptimist Club. She enjoyed the education and scholarships they did, the big breakfast at Riverside Park, the social part." Glen McKenzie**
- Jean loved fishing, bicycling, driving, and flying (even though she didn't really know how to fly much)
- As a couple, Jean and Glen often fished, traveled and square danced (all over the region)
- Jean liked writing and wrote a lot of poetry, too
- Jean was often described as "good company" - never swore, didn't speak bad about others, had strong opinions anyway!

