



Lillian Lahti

March 24, 2007

Iron Mountain - Dr. Lilja "Lillian" I. Lahti, 77, a retired English teacher and resident of Iron Mountain died unexpectedly on Saturday, March 24th of natural causes, fittingly with a book by her side.

Born January 11, 1930 to Finnish immigrant parents, Sofia Emilia and Erick Wilhelm Lahti, Lillian grew up on Everton Street in Kingsford, Michigan with her two older brothers, Hugo and Oliver.

Her educational accomplishments included: High School diploma, Kingsford High School (1947); Bachelor of Arts in English, University of Michigan (1951) with minors in Botany and Education, a Provisional Teaching Certification-Secondary School (1951), and a Permanent Teaching Certification-Secondary School (1954); Masters of Arts, University of Michigan (1959); Advanced Certificate in Education, University of Illinois (1968); and a Doctor of Philosophy, University of Illinois (1972).

Lillian's professional career began as a high school teacher for grades 9-12 at Eban High School in Eban, Michigan from 1951-1954. She taught at Kingsford High School in Kingsford, Michigan from 1954-1967. Lillian then went on to become a college professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater from 1968-1990. She then spent a sabbatical year teaching English as a Foreign Language at Liaoning-Normal University in Dalian, China. Dr. Lillian Irene

Lahti retired in 1990 as an emeritus professor.

Throughout her retirement, Lillian continued her pursuit of knowledge reading an endless assortment of literature and writing copious notes of inspiration for future children's books, and a historical book dedicated to the Finnish immigrants of the Upper Peninsula.

Lillian was loved and will be deeply missed by her surviving family members including her sisters-in-law Maxine, wife of Hugo Lahti (deceased brother), and Clara, wife of Oliver Lahti (deceased brother) and their children Mark, Diane, Daniel, and Kathleen, spouses, nine great nephews and nieces, and three great great nieces.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday at Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain. A visitation will be held from 1:00-2:00pm followed by a memorial service at 2:00pm at the funeral home. Rev. Stephen Cowen will officiate.

Burial will be in Cemetery Park.

Memorials may be sent in Lillian Lahti's name to the Hugo E. Lahti Memorial Fund, a teaching scholarship fund, which has been established within the UW-Whitewater Foundation.

Condolences to the family of Dr. Lillian Lahti can be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with arrangements.

Tribute Wall

VS

“ Through the years I had always wanted to get back to Miss Lahti to express the appreciation for the time she taught me at Eben Jct.,Michigan. It was because of her that I completely changed from a wise-cracking student to one of purpose and fulfillment. she started me doing things in the community by way of comedic monologues, and then pantomiming records. I won a lot of talent shows. She took the extra time to help me gain confidence.

verna maki schmidt - Chatham, MI - former student - March 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

YJ

“ Lil, I'll always remember you as a great friend and mentor. I am forever grateful for your generosity and hospitality. It seems just like yesterday the time we spent at Dalian, Whitewater, Normal, Milwaukee. I miss you.

Yan Jin - November 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ I am proud to have had Lillian Lahti as a friend. She was the smartest kid in our class at Westwood Grade School and Kingsford High. In Grade school she was also one of the first chosen in any scratch game of Football. A great student with a special sense of Humor. She was also a friend of my Brother Blair and his wife Bev. She always visited them whenever she was in town. She will be missed by her many friends at our 60th Kingsford High reunion this year.

Clayton Davidson - April 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Lil' was always a diligent, accomplished student. She was destined to be a university prof. Our 60th high school reunion will not be the same without her this year. I will miss my classmate, friend.

Joyce (Beauchamp) Lester - April 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

T1

“ Although I live in Kansas now, I always looked forward to stopping by and visiting with Ms. Lahti whenever I was in the area on vacation or for a high school reunion. Her demanding standards of teaching and attention to detail taught me that anything worth doing was worth doing well. I will always remember her wit, right down to the bad puns during vocabulary tests. Lillian, I will miss chatting with you. God bless.

Terry Greenwood KHS 1965 - April 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ The spirit and legend of Dr. Lillian Lahti will live on in the hearts of many of Chinese students and teachers who benefited greatly from her teaching. She was kind, caring, and open-minded. She always raised bar to excellence in student learning, especially in teaching of Chinese students. She helped Chinese better understand American culture. So Dr. Lahti will always be remembered as a true friend, great teacher, and excellent cultural ambassador.

Ruifang Cao - March 30, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ Remember Ms Lahti as a dedicated teacher... she was my english teacher in KHS and also got me to go out for a play, one and only, it was a drama which we ended up turning into a comedy... she put up with us all.... never forget her.... great lady.....

Gary Carlson - March 29, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ My memories of Ms. Lahti will always include her enthusiasm for teaching. When we entered her classroom, we knew we were in for a exciting lesson. I also remember how she encouraged all of us to set high goals and aspirations for our lives. She obviously did that for herself by completing her Ph.D. after we all had left KHS.

I did get an opportunity to talk to her at the last reunion I attended and she was still interested in how I was doing. She will be missed.

Jim LaPoint - March 29, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Dear Family of Dr. Lil Lahti,
As a student years ago blessed to have her as a a teacher, I can truthfully say she was a great teacher--competent, entertaining & respected.

God bless you all!

Becky (Gagnon) Robert - March 29, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ I will always remember Ms. Lahti as a fovorite teacher,. She had a good sense of humor and managed to keep our interest peaked in a rather difficult subject to teach.

Matt Rodman - March 27, 2007 at 12:00 AM