



Josephine Alford Carrigan  
1906-2001

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*Jul 22 1906 - Feb 03 2001*

*AAFA# 0235*

Josephine Alford Carrigan was an extraordinary woman, who, in her lifetime saw and was a part of major changes in everyone's lives. She grew up in Louisiana at a time when cars were Model A and the color choice was black. She died at a time when we were landing on Mars and people were living in space. The changes she helped bring in to being are things that we now take for granted.

Throughout her married life to my grandfather Marvin Carrigan, she always took in boarders. During World War Two my grandparents lived in Richmond, California, the home of Rosie the riveter, they had a small boarding house where those riveters lived. Although her house was full, she always had room for one special boarder who came on the weekends and school holidays from a nearby school her niece, Mattie Lou. She would come to stay with her family and sometimes meet up with her mother Vesta who was stationed Fort Ord, Ca.

After the war, Josephine continued take in boarders wherever they lived. This became a business in the 1950's when she and my

grandfather opened their first convalescent hospital. As she grew more confident in this business she noticed that not everyone cared for their patients as they should, so she got other like minded owners together and formed the California Nursing Home Association. She helped with the passing of legislation to govern the care and well being of the patients in nursing homes throughout the State. As these standards were put in place other states followed suit in issuing similar rules to protect those in nursing homes.

After her husband died in 1965 she continued to work until 1988 when her family got her to retire by selling the last business she ran, a residential care facility, for those old people; of she was the oldest of them all.

When she wasn't working she traveling with her good friend Esther Hutchins, honorary Alford, around the world. As far as anyone can tell the only two places they never visited were the southern part of Africa and Cuba. Every time they tried to book a trip the state department would issue a "you can travel there

Africa would be off.

Josephine's favorite travel story is from her trip to China. Josephine and Esther were on one of the first tour groups allowed into the country. They saw everything and had a wonderful time, until they reached the Wall of China, the rest of tour were exhausted they look at the Wall said, "that's nice and when to we get to go the hotel." Josephine, the oldest one on the tour asked if anyone wanted to go onto the top of the Wall, they all replied that they were much too tired, so Josephine tour guide in tow climbed the stairs to look from the top of the Wall Of China. Coming back down she saw her tour looking at her with amazement, all she could was chuckle and say if she was here she was going to look at the top too.

In her later years, her big trip of the year was the Alford Family Reunion. She would plan her trip the week after she got back from the last. She would start working on members of the family to go with her. She has succeeded in getting almost everyone to at least one meeting, if only for dinner. At the Pleasanton

meeting she managed to get her son, both granddaughters, a brother, two sisters, nieces and nephews and a cousin she hadn't seen in thirty years.

It was at this meeting the Alfords learned that her two passions were baking and caning. Everyone at the meeting received a jar of jam made by Josephine and Esther. What most didn't know was that two months after the meeting she baked 60 pecan pies for friends and family. This was down from the high of 112 she had baked a few years before.

Josephine is survived by her son Daniel, her grandchildren Ray, Seanne, Shannon, her great grandchildren Keeley, Kendall, Stephen, her many nieces and nephews scattered throughout the country.

When Josephine passed away in the winter of 2001 she had missed the birth of her great great grandson by three and half months, his name Joseph Tyler, who by all accounts has the temperament, charm and look about him that reminds many of his great great grandmother Josephine.



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