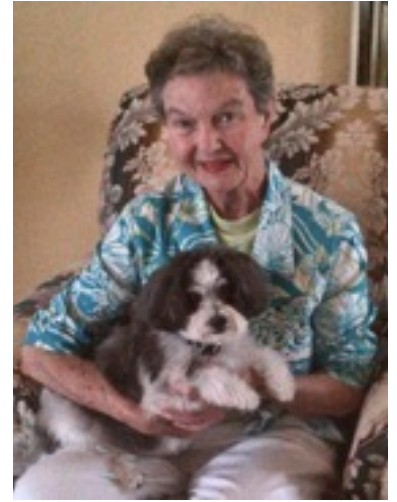


SPOTLIGHT *Frances Miller*

Frances "Sis" Miller was born in a small middle-Tennessee town, Murfreesboro, at the beginning of the Great Depression. She was the only girl in a family of 3 boys, hence the name "Sister" or "Sis." Luckily, her father, whom I came to know as "Daddy Pluck," my grandfather, was a successful entrepreneur and farmer. He had many businesses from bus line owner to chicken farmer to Tennessee walking horse owner and trainer to trailer park landlord. Her mother was a refined lady and socialite, who hosted many bridge parties. With the depression ended and WWII also coming to an end, Frances went to Vanderbilt University, was a cheerleader, and the president of her sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi. She graduated from Vanderbilt and also earned her teacher's certification from Peabody Teacher's College. After college, she taught kindergarten and ballet.



She met my father in her home town, and he also went to Vanderbilt and was captain of Vanderbilt's football team. They started dating after college, then married. Frances moved with him following his career through the US Navy and several college football coaching jobs. Since Frances had teaching experience, she was able to find teaching jobs in most of the new locations-Tennessee, Louisiana, California, Texas, and Iowa. Her first daughter, me (Lee), was born in Texas when her husband (Russ) was an assistant football coach at Texas A&M University. In 1961, Russ became the Head Football coach at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, now University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Shortly thereafter, Frances gave birth to a second daughter, my sister Mary. Frances stayed at home for ten years when we were small, and due to her experience with children, our house was the neighborhood magnet for fun activities.

When we became older, Frances taught kindergarten again and earned her Master's degree in School Supervision. Shortly thereafter, she landed a job at the Lafayette Parish School Board with the HeadStart program. For the next 30 years, Frances held numerous supervisory positions with the School Board and improved the education system for a couple of generations of children. Mom retired at age 69, and my father passed away ten years ago.

Frances is a person of strong faith and was very involved in the First Baptist Church, including singing in the choir and teaching Sunday school. Frances is a practiced bridge player and participated in several bridge groups. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and several service organizations. On the sporting side, Frances played golf, tennis, and loved dancing.

In 2014, Frances considered moving out of the house and into independent living. She visited me in Lake Mary and we looked at Oakmonte Village. She really liked the place, but the deal was sealed when she met Naomi Brooks. Naomi is Oakmonte's unofficial ambassador and showed Frances around and introduced her to folks. She moved into Oakmonte with her little dog, Junebug, last summer. My sister, who lives in Tampa with her husband and two teenagers, and I are delighted to have her nearby after so many years of long distance visits. Frances joined the Heathrow Women's Club and is on the Telephone Committee. She is very happy here, playing bridge, doing HWC and church activities, and enjoying her family!

BY LEE GRANGER