Elizabeth Roberts Sturm

(1914-2001)

Elizabeth Roberts Sturm, 87, of Reno died Nov. 27, 2001 at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. She was born in Allen, Kan., March 16, 1914, to Edwin Adel and Rose Maude (Eastman) Roberts.

She was a 1931 graduate of Topeka High School, in Topeka, Kan., and attended numerous colleges and universities throughout her life. Betsy, or Beth, as family and friends knew her, was a well-respected librarian.

At the age of 16, Betsy began her life-long career at the Topeka Public Library Children's Department. Throughout her life she performed every task undertaken in a library from clerk typist to library director. Betsy worked in all types of libraries -- public, private and academic. She worked at libraries in Kansas, Oklahoma, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, California, and lastly in Nevada after moving here in 1965.

Betsy was the founding librarian of Carson College, one of the groundwork institutions leading to the present Nevada Community College System. She established the first community college library in Elko, which opened its doors in 1969. A past President of Northern Nevada Community College (now Great Basin College) in Elko marveled at the amount of work and quality of the library Betsy created with very limited assistance and resources for northeastern Nevada.

When her family transferred back to Reno, Beth was tapped to implement the creation of one more Learning Resources Center for Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), formerly Western Nevada Community College North Campus. An energetic and enthusiastic faculty member at TMCC, Betsy forged library consortiums that still serve the community today.

Beth's heart of gold touched countless students and co-workers over her 55 plus years in academic libraries. Upon retirement from TMCC in 1988, she was honored for her years of service to Nevada students by having the college library named "Elizabeth Sturm Library."

Retiring to Mariposa, Calif., she volunteered at the Mariposa Public Library for several years prior to returning to Reno. In addition to being a loving friend to many, Beth was an avid amateur ornithologist who had an infectious smile and caring style that will be dearly missed.