

Mary Willietta Rice Moore



Born: 29 February 1896 in
Grant, Oregon

Mother: Mary Hannah Marcia
Ingraham

Father: William Wallace Rice

Married: 30 June 1915, in
Walla Walla, WA

Died: 21 March 1980 in
Santa Rosa, California

Willieta was the daughter of Mary Ingraham and William Wallace Rice. She was born in their log house on their cattle ranch near Susanville, Oregon, in what was known as Cross Hollows in "the John Day Country." The date of her birth, according to the information she provided, was February 29, 1896; some family records show February 28, 1895. She really enjoyed having a Leap Year birthday so that was the date celebrated.

On June 30, 1915, she married William Dwight Moore, son of "Ollie" Tweedy and Enos Moore. Their three children were William Rice, Robert Bruce and Dorothy Dee. Despite financial hardship, because of her determination and the will to achieve their goals she had instilled in them, all three graduated from Washington State College with Bill and Bruce meeting their wives there. A Cougar family!



When the Great Depression destroyed all their material gains, she and her husband attacked the problem as a team. They moved from Walla Walla to the country, Finley, Washington, where they could live cheaply and raise their own food. She managed the home front, which entailed a lot of hard physical labor, while Bill was away earning their living. After Bill died of a heart attack at the age of 51, with a lot of loving help from her son Bill and his wife Jackie, she built a successful business of her own. She married Leroy "Roy" Tignor after she retired.

She could ride a horse, shoot a 22 rifle with great accuracy, cook meals for ranch hands, prepare and serve a lovely tea for her Shakespeare club, organize and perform in community amateur theater, make a speech, lead 4-H clubs for girls, organize and run a free hot-soup lunch program for all the children in the school, design and sew clothing, raise beautiful flowers and win prizes with the arrangements she made with them, sing in the choir, and much more. Her children had a happy childhood with lots of activities in spite of the financial poverty of the time. She was a dynamic person who liked to be in charge. She was often charming and many times difficult. She had a great deal of pride.

She was never dull!