



### School of Human Ecology Loses Cherished Mrs. Frieda Annie Neff

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the School of Human Ecology lost one of its most beloved and long-serving members. Mrs. Frieda Annie Neff passed away at the age of 89.

Mrs. Neff, born on February 8, 1920 to Anna Marie and Gustav August Peters, was born in Hamilton County, Texas and raised in Shive, Texas, both predominantly German farming communities.

Upon arriving in Austin, Mrs. Neff began her professional career as a clerk in Scarborough's Department Store before beginning her tenure at The University of Texas at Austin. Mrs. Neff joined the staff of the, then, Department of Home Economics in 1956 as a Professor's Assistant in the food laboratories in Gearing Hall. Charged with ensuring the readiness of the food labs for students enrolled in the Division of Nutrition, Mrs. Neff most enjoyed getting to know the students who benefited from her guidance. Highly esteemed by students, faculty, and staff, Mrs. Neff was the recipient of numerous departmental, college, and university-level accolades for her dedication to service. Dr. Margaret Briley says of Mrs. Neff, "She was so proud of her awards and had carried them to the retirement home where she hung them on the wall in her bedroom." Mrs. Neff served the university for 43 years prior to retiring in 1999.

Mrs. Neff's life was celebrated on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Dr. Briley, who with many School of Human Ecology professors emeriti—Dr. Richard Willis, Dr. Phyllis Richards, and Dr. Beth Gillham,--attended the service, described it as, "one befitting a dignitary."

Mrs. Neff is survived by loving children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. The family welcomes and invites you to visit Mrs. Neff's memorial site at <http://www.MeM.com> where you can share your thoughts and memories.

If you would like additional information, please feel free to contact [Mike McKinley](#) by e-mail or by phone at 512-471-4934.