

Boulder City pioneer dead at 94

Lillian Castleman Weiler, 94, died peacefully on Oct. 14, 1998 at the Delmar Gardens rest home in Henderson. She was one of the pioneering spirits who lived in Boulder City in its earliest days and participated in its development.

Lillian was born March 5, 1904 in Dyersburg, Tenn. She and her husband, the late John R. (Jack) Weiler, came to Boulder City to live in 1931. They had two daughters, Dorothy Irene and Marguerite.

Jack Weiler worked as a high-scaler during the construction of Boulder Dam, but he had always been a lawyer before that (he was one of the first motorcycle policemen in Memphis) and he joined the Boulder City police force, known as the Rangers. He went on to become Captain of the Rangers. Jack was a well known and popular figure around Boulder City. Two of the many distinctions for which he is remembered: He was the first person to cross the Boulder Dam (in the police car preceding the dignitaries); and there was his cameo role in the Las Vegas-based



Lillian Castleman Weiler
motion picture "Ocean's Eleven."
He died in Boulder City in 1974.

Lillian was herself a homemaker and is remembered as welcoming and caring. She was enthusiastic about life and she inspired enthusiasm in others. She loved Boulder City and her early memories of living here included making the bi-weekly journey to Las Vegas along the dirt and gravel track that is now the Boulder Highway to bring back

provisions. While she lived here, she was a member of Grace Community Church and sang in the church choir.

Lillian eventually moved to North Hollywood, Calif. and lived there for many years. She loved history and loved to travel, and was delighted with an opportunity to explore Europe and get to know its people while living for most of a year with daughter Dorothy's family in Munich, Germany, in the 1960s. She said, "Everyone should live in Europe a while to be better Americans."

She returned to Las Vegas in 1992 and she was happy to be home again. She is survived by her daughter, Dorothy Weiler Ragsdale, and son-in-law, Harold E. Ragsdale; by three of her four grandchildren (Tod, Nikki, and Laine Ragsdale); and by her three great grandchildren (Ian and Arton Ragsdale and Diana Sherwood).

At the time of her death, Lillian was a member of Green Valley Presbyterian Church. Services were held at Palm Mortuary in Henderson, and interment was Monday, Oct. 19, at Boulder City Cemetery.