

Serendipity Scholarship *Established in Memory of Ada Koenig Kirk*

Ada Koenig Kirk was a living legend whose impact reached beyond those who knew her. Born in DeWitt County in 1922, Ada rode a horse to a one-room schoolhouse, which was situated on land donated by her grandfather with the hope that his twelve children would be able to receive an education. She went on to graduate with honors from Incarnate Word College in 1943 before returning to that one-room schoolhouse to teach. She later married Bert Kirk and had a son, Robert (Robbie), and daughter, Martha. In 1965, Mrs. Kirk received her Master of Arts degree in English from Incarnate Word College.

Mrs. Kirk went on to teach at Cuero High School. In all, she taught 45 years in Cuero before retiring at the age of 80. She was an enthusiastic, inspirational, and beloved teacher best known for her love of serendipity. She once wrote, "Serendipity is the wonderful ability of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for." She felt, "With unquenchable desire, open eyes, and inquiring minds, [students] will opt to be intellectually curious about everything under the sun all the days of their lives." She concluded, "After many years of making magic discoveries, it is my wish that the students...can say as I do, 'I live a serendipitous life!'"

In addition to her passion for education and serendipity, she was equally passionate about her faith and service to her community. She was generous with her time and volunteered with community organizations such as St. Michael's Parent-Teacher Club, Altar Society, Hawthorne Literary Club, Cuero Music Lovers Club, and DeWitt County Historical Museum. She often quoted Romans 8:28, "For those who love God, all things work together for good." She lived with joy, hope, gratitude, generosity, beauty, wisdom, and love. Among her greatest loves were her granddaughters, Meredith and Morgen. She was delighted that they, along with their parents, Robbie and Cindy, were able to live in the homestead built in 1900 on the land acquired by the family in 1877.

After Mrs. Kirk's passing on May 16, 2003, friends and family alike gathered to remember a life well-lived and to share their "serendipities." Additionally, her family established the Serendipity Scholarship in her memory to encourage and reward students in the areas of fine arts, music, and/or humanities (literature, history, philosophy, or religious studies) in honor of her delight in these areas. It is the tremendous honor of the Cuero ISD Education Foundation board of directors to be able to share Mrs. Kirk's legacy with a new generation of students. May we all be inspired to live a serendipitous life!



Ada Kirk