



**L**ois Marie Maue was born March 30, 1927 in Monticello, Minnesota. She was the fifth child of Roy Carl Maue and Myrtle Ellen Sell Maue.

She attended school in Monticello. Her childhood summers were spent at the lake cabin of a friend.

In high school she was involved in a number of activities, from editor-in-chief of the PowWow yearbook, to tumbling. She sang in the choir and played clarinet in the school band, which is how she acquired the nickname, “Squeak.” She also sang in a girls group which performed at graduation. She participated in the class play, “Sadie of the U.S.A.,” in which she played the part of Mrs. Corbus. She even received a second-place ribbon for dart-throwing! Lois graduated from Monticello High School in 1945.



“Up Home” in Monticello with sister Iris.

She moved to the Twin Cities after graduation and shared an apartment for a time with her sister, Mildred (Mimi). A whiz at numbers, she soon found a job as a bookkeeper at Coast to Coast Hardware.

After a whirlwind courtship, she married Les Todd in September 1948. The marriage ended in divorce in 1949. In a time when divorce was frowned upon, she became a divorcee. Stung by her experience and fiercely independent, she never remarried.

Lois’ bookkeeping career continued at Gedney, Alpana Aluminum and Layne Minnesota. Money--earning it, controlling it--became a driving force in her life. At times, her earnings exceeded those of her brothers-in-law.

With Les, 1948.



Lois retired in the 1980s, but took on temporary jobs such as delivering telephone books and sorting neckties, primarily as a way to keep busy.

Lois always had to be different--she once rented a harp so she could learn to play jazz on it. She was interested in the occult, astrology and conspiracy theories. She visited psychics and tarot card readers and devoured books on Nostradamus and “ancient aliens.” Murder mysteries were her favorite fiction genre; the creepier and gorier, the better.

She golfed, and liked to dance. She enjoyed crafts, including knitting, crocheting and candymaking. Her Christmas tree was decorated completely with ornaments she’d made herself. The Minnesota Vikings were another hobby—she took newspaper columnist Jim Klobuchar’s football class for women to gain a better understanding of the game.



Coloring with great-niece Elizabeth Sowden, 1980s.

She liked to travel, and visited Las Vegas several times to play the slots. She also toured New Zealand, Alaska, and Canada. Heart problems cancelled her plans for a trip around the world.

Lois liked little children and could often coax a smile from a baby when others could not. She never minded getting down on the floor to color in a coloring book. Aunt “Lowee” could frequently be persuaded to stand on her head.

In her later years, she took up painting. At first, her art had the flat, primitive quality of Grandma Moses, whom she admired. (Norman Rockwell was another favorite.) She spent many days in her apartment studio, painting from magazine photos. Her “eye” developed, and her paintings acquired more depth.

Throughout her life, Lois did pretty much what she pleased, when she pleased. She maintained her own home. When financial circumstances forced her to move--from Robbinsdale to Albertville, to New Hope--she