

Marie Ferree Brant

Marie Ferree Brant died Dec. 2, 2005, at Sutter Davis Hospital, following complications from surgery. Born Dec. 12, 1922, near Gays, Ill., she was 82 years old.

A memorial Mass will begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. James Catholic Church, 1275 B St. in Davis.

She received a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois State University in 1944 and a master's degree from Michigan State University in 1955. She worked as a teacher from 1944 to 1948 in Illinois public schools. From 1948 to 1964, she was a food production manager with Stouffer Corp., a food service director for the University of North Dakota and a food marketing specialist at Michigan State University.

In October 1964, she joined the University of California Agricultural Cooperative Extension as the consumer food marketing specialist, a position she held for 20 years. She retired on June 30, 1984.

In 2001, she married A. Wade Brant, Ph.D., a retired faculty member of the UC Agricultural Cooperative Extension Service.

During her career, she took part in regional training conferences focusing on consumer marketing economics; presented food marketing information in newspaper columns, on radio and television; and wrote food marketing information bulletins for distribution nationwide.

She was an active member of the national Institute of Food Technologists and the Northern California Section of IFT. She served on many key professional committees, including the National Expert Panel on Food Safety and Nutrition. Recognition of her achievements include her appearance in the eighth edition of "Who's Who of American Women."

She was known as a trailblazer in her time. As a great communicator, she used all forms of media to carry the message in her work. She launched a popular newsletter called "Marketing Memos" that contained information of interest to food educators, editors, home economists and nutritionists on food processing and food trends.

She was the co-editor of the Northern California Institute of Food Technologists' "Hornblower" for two years. Her quick wit and sense of humor made her a successful presenter in a popular road show on training for extension advisers and consumer educators.

She enjoyed traveling, reading, sewing, quilting, scrapbooking and spending time with family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Wade Brant and his family; her brother, Robert of Tehachapi; a niece, Kristie, and nephews Kent and Kelly from Southern California; several grand-nieces and -nephews; and numerous cousins.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. James Church of Davis, or to the donor's favorite charity.

(Obituary from the "The Davis Enterprise," Thursday, December 8, 2005.)