

[from Spring '09]



Dolly Keene

On December 6, 2008 Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Chincoteague Natural History Association lost a long time friend, volunteer and board member, Dorothea "Dolly" Keene. Originally from Pennsylvania, Dolly and her husband, Jack came to Chincoteague in 1993 drawn by her love of the beach. When not volunteering at the Visitors Center or special events, Dolly would find her way seaside.

Wednesday mornings Dolly and Jack could be found at the front desk of the H.H. Bateman Center. They began their career of volunteering for CNWR at the old visitor's center in 1995. She always had a welcoming smile and greeted each visitor as a special guest. Among other duties she would price articles for the gift shop and stick on address labels and if she ran out of time she would take work home with her to make sure it got done. Together as board members of CNHA, they attended several Friends Conferences in Washington DC, NCTC and Hadley, MA.

Jack and Dolly met as high school seniors on a blind date. On August 7, 1948, they crossed the border to Rising Sun, Maryland and were married. People thought they were too young to know what they felt in their hearts. A devoted couple, they were able to enjoy their 60th Anniversary together.

Dolly worked for RCA but stayed at home after they started their family, a boy and a girl. She participated actively in her church both in Pennsylvania and on Chincoteague and was an active member of the DAR. Dolly's loves included cooking, entertaining, traveling, collecting elephants and of course her children and 3 granddaughters.

We miss Dolly, think of her often and are glad that Jack is carrying on for the two of them.