



Katherine Ausburn



Katherine Ross Ausburn was born on August 22, 1908 in Oklahoma City. Her father was a Church of the Brethren minister and served several churches in Oklahoma and Kansas - her family of ten moved frequently. Her father died when Katherine was seven, and her mother struggled financially and some of the children had to be sent to live with relatives.

As her mother continued moving, Katherine ended up attending four different high schools. During her sophomore year at Broken Arrow she met her future husband, Rube Ausburn. They were smitten with each other, but because Katherine's mother wanted to ensure that Katherine finish high school, and concerned that the young couple would elope, Mrs. Ross moved the family to Effingham, Kansas where she also found a teaching position. They did marry, but not until Katherine had her high school diploma and had taught a year in a one room schoolhouse in Maple Grove, Kansas. (In those years, married women could not hold a teaching position, so that was the end of Katherine's teaching career.)

Rube and Katherine, being unable to attend college themselves, were proud that their two sons and a daughter were graduates. As her children were growing up, Katherine was active in PTA at every school their children attended - Kendall, Wilson, and Will Rogers. She also volunteered as a Boy Scout leader for her sons and served as president of the Magic Empire Council of the Girl Scouts for a few years. Church Women United and Presbyterian women's groups were other

volunteer opportunities, and she was the first woman elder in Westminster United Presbyterian Church. Katherine was the consummate volunteer and loved every minute of her service.

After her death on January 3, 1991 a letter was found in her personal papers requesting that her family give a gift to Will Rogers High School in the form of a scholarship to a deserving senior to help them pursue a college or trade school degree. Her family thought that was a perfect tribute to their mother who had valued education so highly.