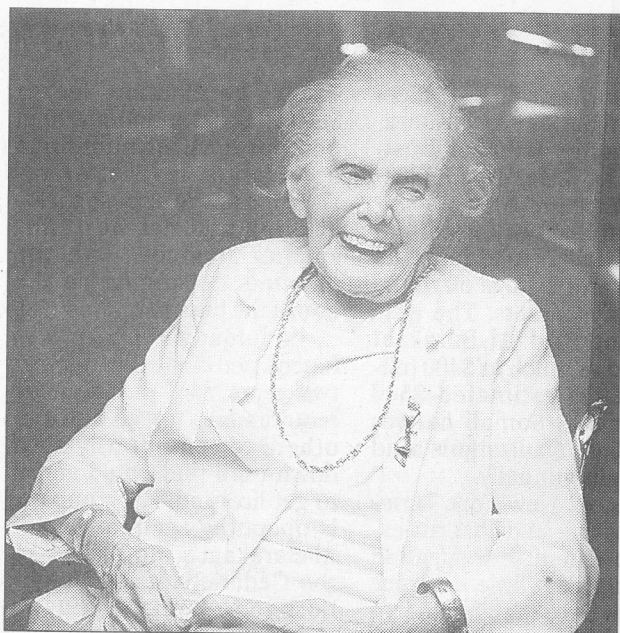


## Obituaries



**Ann Lindholm, at her 108th birthday party, is remembered for her positive outlook. She and her husband Cedric were charter members of the Twin Cities Puppeteers Club.**

# Ann Lindholm, 110, Minneapolis teacher for 43 years, dies

By Kavita Kumar  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

When Ann Bezanson Lindholm was a girl, doctors told her parents that she was frail and that the country air at their homestead by Mille Lacs might do her some good.

Apparently, it did her a lot of good. The frail little girl ended up outliving just about everyone.

Lindholm, who lived in three centuries, died Friday at Ebenezer Hall in Minneapolis. She was 110.

In her 43 years as a Minneapolis teacher, she touched the lives of more than 1,200 students. She taught at Hiawatha Elementary School and Waite Park Elementary School and later as a substitute teacher.

husband after he had a heart attack. He died the next year — at age 82.

They always wished they could have children but never did, said Karen Backes, a friend.

In 1983, Lindholm moved into the Retired Teachers' Residence, where she enjoyed playing bridge and bingo and throwing annual Valentine's Day parties.

When she moved to Ebenezer Hall in 1998, she told friend Paul Eide the move was "just temporary."

"She was always looking forward," he said.

Eide, a member of the Twin Cities Puppeteers Club, had known Lindholm since 1960. He was 20 then. She was 68.

She and her husband, Cedric, who made marionettes and was a magician, were charter members of the Twin Cities Puppeteers Club. They started the club, which is still active, more than 60 years ago in 1939. He also was a Hennepin County probation officer.

She played bridge and drove her Buick into her 90s. When she first started driving, she drove a Ford Model T.

Through the years, she had no major health problems.

"I don't think she wore glasses until she was 80-some years old, and that was just to read," said Judy Bezanson, her great-niece.

About three years ago, she was called to jury duty. The mail showed her age as 7, not 107, Bezanson said. She ended up not having to serve.

At her 110th birthday in January, students at South High School in Minneapolis sent her a card saying she was their school's oldest living graduate.

"She lived her life up until the very end," Bezanson said.

Ann Bezanson was born in Minneapolis on Jan. 30, 1892, the fourth of five children. Her parents were from Nova Scotia.

After she graduated from high school, she worked at the Powers department store downtown where she met her future husband, who worked in the shoe department.

She attended Winona State Teachers' College, now Winona State University, and started going out dancing with Cedric while she was a schoolteacher. She was fascinated by his puppets and baffling card tricks, friends said.

In the mid-1930s, they became friends with other puppeteers and often met at one another's homes. They later formed a club.

She retired from teaching in 1968 to care for her

"She was just a wonderfully gracious and dignified woman with a great sense of humor," he said. "I used to speculate with her nephew Charles and with other people who knew Ann what was it that made her live so long.

"The only thing I could figure out is that she had such a positive outlook. I never heard her complain. And she was appreciative of life."

She always seemed to be genuinely happy to be with people — and always did so with a smile, Bezanson said.

"She didn't let things get her down, or if she did, she didn't let other people see it," she said. "When you'd ask her about it, she'd say, 'Well, I loved my mother and my father and I had a good family.' I think the key was that she was always active."

Lindholm had many stories to tell about all she had seen and done during her life. But the memories she chose to pass on weren't about previous presidents or famous events like the sinking of the Titanic, Eide said.

She remembered her years as a teacher and starting off her class every morning with her puppet, Skippy, which Cedric had made.

And at her 110th birthday party, Lindholm was "still as gracious as ever," Eide said.

"She was pretty remarkable. I was hoping she'd make it to 111, and I was pretty sure she would. When you get that old, eventually we all wear out."

Survivors include a niece and two nephews, as well as many great-nieces and -nephews.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Ebenezer Hall, 2545 Portland Av. S., Minneapolis.

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