

## Mary E. Fulford Root

Mary E. Fulford was born 18 December 1916 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her early career included working for Honeywell in Minneapolis in the Relay Department, where she continued employment until 1941. Her charming personality and gracious demeanor provided her the opportunity to represent Honeywell in various events and pageants, and she was crowned Snow Queen of Minneapolis in 1939.

In 1941 she booked a steamship voyage from Seattle to Kodiak Island Alaska to surprise her boyfriend, who was already in Kodiak working for the US Navy. She landed in Kodiak and received an immediate proposal for marriage and was married to Vincent W. Root two days later.

In Kodiak, Mary worked for Pacific Northern Airline (PNA) from its inception in 1947 until PNA was purchased by Western Airlines in 1967. Mary continued to work for Western Airline in Anchorage with weekly commutes from Kodiak until she retired.

## Vincent W. Root

Vincent W. Root was born 11 February 1913 in Marine on St Croix, Minnesota. He was one of nineteen children and never tired of telling the story of his mother making oatmeal for breakfast in a “three gallon pail.” He told it well, as he had an engaging personality and was always upbeat in his outlook in life.

In the late 1930's Vincent worked for H. O. Soderlin Plumbing and Heating business in Minneapolis. When opportunity presented itself, Vincent headed to Alaska with a friend, ending up on Kodiak Island where he worked as a plumber for the US Navy. He decided he liked Kodiak and stayed while others left. Shortly thereafter Mary arrived via steam ship and they were married.

Vincent was well known in Kodiak. He loved to sing and sang in multiple church choirs on Sundays. He was also a charter member of the Kodiak Elks Club, where he served two terms as Exalted Ruler.

In Kodiak, Vincent was a master plumber and created a successful plumbing business that lasted for more than thirty years.