

Charlotte Bortner Collett
(12/4/25 - 8/19/01)

Charlotte Bortner Collett was the driving force behind many of Manchester's events and activities. With boundless energy and enthusiasm, Charlotte planned and worked and organized both events and people. Over the years Charlotte reached out and touched the lives of Manchester's citizens in many ways. Those now in their thirties and forties may remember having her as their second grade teacher at Manchester Elementary. She then moved from the classroom to the council room as she became involved in Manchester's government. She served on the Planning and Zoning Commission as member and chairperson for many years. In 1990 she became a member of the Town Council and served in that position until she retired in 1997. She was also one of the leading members of the Manchester Historical Center and, besides its monthly meetings, she organized the Center's special events such as the school art shows, adult art show, photography exhibits, and antique appraisals. Every November, a Veteran's Day program was planned by her, and she worked tirelessly with others to get the War Memorial updated with the names of everyone from the area who had served in the Armed Forces. She scheduled the entertainment for Manchester Day and she planned the summer Concerts in the Park. She headed Manchester's Tree Commission, and she was instrumental in the creation of the Nature Center in Pine Valley Park. At the Nature Center's dedication, she was honored for this accomplishment when the sign was unveiled proclaiming the Center's official name: "Charlotte's Quest for the Outside World". She took great pride in her Town as she organized cleanup days, held Mock Council meetings for the youth, and planned Manchester's Millennium Bash last summer. In addition to the time she gave to the Town of Manchester, she was also extremely involved in volunteer activities at her church and at Carroll Lutheran Village. She left us with a legacy of civic participation and volunteerism that will never be surpassed. It is in memory of her many contributions that the Town of Manchester is now challenging this new generation to follow in her footsteps.