



*Angela Brigid
Cleary
Turkula*

Memorial Endowment

~ 1920-1999 ~

A lovely voice with an Irish lilt and a soulful rendition of *Galway Bay* was all it took ... the dashing young pre-med student and Air Force veteran, William Turkula, was smitten! Convinced by a friend that they should attend a fund-raiser for the St. Mary's Cathedral in Winnipeg, Manitoba, William was captivated by the petite, black-faced actress in the minstrel show with the beautiful voice. She was Angela Brigid Cleary.

Born and raised in Waterford, Ireland (Eire), Angela Cleary was education in St. Joseph Schools and learned to do lab technician work analyzing grain for a large mill. In the early 1940s, she traveled to England to begin nurse training, but the mighty German bombings became too much for her. She returned to her former job in Ireland and cared for her seriously ill mother. A few months later, she returned to England, working and living close to her sister, a nurse in London. During the infamous air blitz of

London, Angela's sister married a Canadian doctor/Army major from Winnipeg, and they sought safety in Canada. Angela continued working in England until she received a call for help from her sister in Winnipeg. Angela boarded the last of the *War Bride* ships in January 1948 on a mission to help her sister raise a growing family in Winnipeg. When the family no longer needed her assistance, Angela found employment in the accounting office of Eaton's Department Store.

Their chance meeting at the cathedral fund-raiser was followed by courtship and then marriage, February 18, 1950. Angela supported William's dream of completing medical school—his first career as a teacher was interrupted by a call to duty in the Air Force where he worked

as an air frame mechanic. After finishing med school, the young couple lived and worked in two communities before settling in Devils Lake, North Dakota. There they quickly became immersed in the fabric of the community and raised four lively children—Bill, Denise, Louise, and Tom.

Angela's beautiful voice provided special memories for her children and the community, too. She sang often to her children and occasionally at community functions, always a capella, frequently Irish ballads. She was also a wonderful story-teller for the children, spinning delightful tales about the sea and

ships and lighthouse keepers. They were captivating stories drawn from her unique experiences and embellished by her quick wit and boundless imagination. If you heard her stories, you, too, believed in fairies and little people!

As her children needed less of her time, Angela became more involved in community affairs, working in volunteer positions, often for the arts, and she even ran as a Republican candidate for a seat in the North Dakota Legislature. Unfortunately, she was defeat-

ed, but she never regretted the adventure, as she made many new friends along the campaign trail. She kept reminding people of the American freedom that gave them the right to vote.

Through her husband and her children, through her

work in the community, and in the hearts of many, Angela Turkula made this world a better place. She had a special gift for helping those she touched feel warmth and comfort, but in her own heart, it seemed there was always a longing for her homeland as expressed in the ballad she loved to sing, *Galway Bay*.

The Angela Turkula Memorial Endowment was established by her family who have asked that the earnings be used annually to support a scholarship or an arts-related project at Lake Region State College. "*Angela was always for the arts,*" explained her beloved husband, Dr. William Turkula. ❧

Galway Bay

*Maybe someday I'll go back to Ireland,
If it's only at the closing of my days,
Just to see again the moon rise o'er Cladoch,
And watch the sun go down on Galway Bay.*

*And if there's going to be a life hereafter,
Which somehow I feel sure there's going to be,
I shall ask my God to let me make my Heaven,
In that little land across the Irish sea.*