

## Esther Garrett Edgerton



Esther Garrett Edgerton was the daughter of Clara and William Garrett, was born on September 8, 1903, in Hamilton County, Nebraska. Esther attended the University of Nebraska, receiving a degree in mathematics, music and education and then attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Mass. She was skilled as a pianist and was blessed with a lovely singing voice. She worked as a teacher both in Aurora, Neb. and in the Boston public schools. She was a member of the Payson Park Church in Belmont, Mass. Mrs. Edgerton was an active member of the International Chapter, P.E.O. Sisterhood since 1928, a member of Chapter C in Belmont, Mass., and the MIT Matrons. Mrs. Edgerton was loyal to her church, family, and friends and always gave generously of herself wherever she was involved. She was a loving wife and mother and a great helpmate to her husband, Harold Edgerton, in his work as a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he was a professor emeritus of electrical engineering and co-founder of Edgerton, Germeshausen and Grier, Inc. With her husband, Harold, Mrs. Edgerton established the Edgerton Explorit Center in Aurora, Neb., the Edgerton Research Vessel at the New England Aquarium, the Edgerton House dormitory at MIT and endowed several scholarships and chairmanships. The Edgertons, along with the Germeshausens and Griers, funded the EG&G building at MIT and Mrs. Edgerton funded exhibits at the Science Center at the Boston Museum of Science with Mrs. Polly Germeshausen. After many years in Belmont and Cambridge, Mass., Mrs. Edgerton lived for several years at Brookhaven at Lexington, Mass. and then lived in Charleston, S.C. with her granddaughter and family for the last four years of her life.

Mrs. Edgerton died peacefully at home, surrounded by her family on March 9, 2002, at the age of 98 in Charleston, S.C., in the home of her granddaughter, Janice Dixon Key. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold Eugene Edgerton, her son, William Eugene Edgerton, and her daughter, Mary Louise Edgerton Dixon. Surviving family include son, Robert Frank Edgerton of Seattle, Wash., 7 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.