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BOB WARREN, the regular author of the *Now & Then* column, is taking time off this month after the unexpected death of his wife of 64 years. We asked Mr. Warren for his permission to honor his lovely wife, Ann Warren, in this column and he whole-heartedly agreed.

Frisco *STYLE Magazine* honored Mr. Warren as our first Person of the Year recipient in the June issue of the magazine. At the reception in late May announcing his award, Mrs. Warren was able to attend and as Mr. Warren said, "It was one of her last joyous memories." We were honored to be able to provide that memory for such a fun-loving, caring and gracious lady.

ANNA BELL BOLIN had no idea when she agreed to marry Bob Warren while they were perched atop a Ferris wheel that she was beginning the ride of her life. Bob has often remarked, with humor, that a girl will agree to most anything when she's at the top of a Ferris wheel and you start rocking the chair!

Ann Warren's ride came to an earthly end May 28, 2006 when she succumbed to recent health issues. Her 64-year journey with Mr. Warren produced five children, touched the lives of countless friends and leaves a legacy of compassion.

Mrs. Warren was born June 24, 1923 to sharecropper parents in Lebanon, Texas, now part of Frisco. Mr. Warren recounted several episodes of Mrs. Warren's early life in the *Now & Then* May 2006 issue of *Frisco STYLE Magazine*. One such event was the house fire that



Anna Bell Bolin Warren

photo provided by Bob Warren

The depression caused the family to relocate several times to homes in Wylie, Allen and Frisco searching for a sharecropping opportunity. Mr. Warren also shared the stories of Anna Bell's new home and educational experience.

"Ann tells of the house they lived in on that farm. She says, 'It wasn't much of a house—had pine floors with cracks so wide we could look through the cracks and see the chickens scratching around in the dirt under the house. But the cracks came in handy when we swept the floor. The dirt and crumbs fell through the cracks, so nothing was left to pick up.'"

"Their new place was located on a dirt road about three miles from the Wylie school and, with no school busses, Mr. Bolin had to take his daughter to and from school. After three days of plowing through

the mud twice a day, they gave up on schooling for the year, making little Anna Bell "a first grade drop-out." When Mrs. Warren was ten years old her father gave up farming and became a Baptist preacher. He served in numerous small Collin County churches, and in the late 1930s the family moved back to Frisco where Mrs. Warren graduated from high school. She was playing the piano in Frisco's First Baptist Church when she met Mr. Warren.

After they married in 1942, Mr. Warren served in World War II as a pilot in the Troop Carrier Command of the Army Air

In Memory of Ann Warren

By Beth Robinson

destroyed the Bolin family home when Anna Bell was five years old. While all the family members survived unhurt, the home was a total loss.

"Everyone escaped with only the clothes on their backs, but neighbors and relatives took them in and soon gave them a 'shower' of gifts, clothing and other necessities so they could start over. Ann remembers living in a windowless smokehouse while the house was being rebuilt. While the carpenters were working, Ann and her brother didn't want to take a nap, fearing the house would be completed while they slept."



Bob & Ann Warren at the Frisco STYLE Person of the Year reception
photo by Andy Johnson

Corps. His service took him to Europe and left Mrs. Warren stateside. At the conclusion of the war Mr. Warren was fortunate to begin work with the Humble Oil and Refining Company, now known as ExxonMobil Corporation. The young family moved all over Texas eventually returning to Frisco, Mr. Warren's hometown. Mrs. Warren remarked their family grew so quickly "it looked like we had a litter with five children in eight years!"

When they settled back in Frisco in 1981 the Warren's five children now had children of their own which allowed Mrs. Warren to dote on the grandchildren, continue with community work and expand her love of arts and crafts activities.

In the late 90s, Mrs. Warren suffered a stroke and additional tests determined she also had hydrocephalus or fluid on the

brain. Before one of many surgeries to alleviate the problem, Mrs. Warren shaved her head. With the help of friends and family members, Mrs. Warren shaved all but a strip of hair down the middle of her head and painted the remaining "Mohawk" green and purple. Her strong faith and fun-loving sense of humor brought her through the difficult operation. And her startling yet amusing new "do" landed her on the cover of a spring issue of *Frisco STYLE Magazine* in 1999.

"I wanted to show that, even though I used to receive

compliments on my hair, it really had nothing to do with me," Mrs. Warren had said. A saying posted in the Warren house reflected Mrs. Warren's philosophy of life, "If you're going to worry, why pray?... If you're going to pray, why worry?" She believed in the thought so much, she had calling cards printed with the message to leave with those who needed encouragement.

Mrs. Warren was affectionately known as "that crazy cat lady" for her penchant for collecting and caring for stray cats. Many of her handcrafts were fashioned out of recycled cat food tins. She was also an excellent cook. One of Mrs. Warren's ministries was making bread for the sick, always attaching her self-designed label stating, "Manna by Anna."

The Frisco Chamber of Commerce recognized Mrs. Warren's enthusiasm for Frisco and presented her with the Spirit

of Frisco Award in 2002.

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Mrs. Warren's proudest accomplishment was her family. In addition to Mr. Warren she is survived by their five children: Don Warren and wife June of Garland; Kay Warren of Frisco; Phil Warren and fiancée Marilyn Chapin of Frisco; Dr. Van Warren and wife Beth of Roswell NM; and Tami Warren Marlin and husband Tommy of San Antonio. She is proud of all of her 15 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and one great great grandchild. In addition she is survived by her widowed sister-in-law Wanda Bolin of Canton; her brother M. E. Bolin and his wife Bette of Portales NM; and numerous nieces and nephews. Her parents Jesse Bolin and wife Ethel Howington Bolin, her brother Jesse Bolin Jr. and an infant grandson, Jeffrey Lynn Warren, precede Mrs. Warren in death.

Beth Robinson is editor of *Frisco STYLE Magazine* and proud to be considered a friend of the Warrens.



Ann & her brother, Jesse Bolin
photo provided by Bob Warren