

## Ellen Mears, 96

*Sept. 24, 1908 - May 25, 2005*

**SAN CARLOS, CA** — Ellen Elizabeth Mears was born in Panama, Sept. 24, 1908. She opened her first re-weaving business at age 16 in Omaha, NE, where she began repairing silk hosiery. She also owned clothing repair shops in Sioux city and Denver, CO before she moved to San Carlos, CA, in 1957, and opened The French Re-weavers in Redwood City, CA on El Camino Real at Broadway. She worked her craft for 77 years until 2004, when at age 95, a stroke forced her to retire and sell the business. Through the years, she repaired garments for United Airlines, upscale department stores and such celebrities as President Dwight Eisenhower, Ethel Merman and Tom Jones. She traveled all over the Bay Area, fixing tears and holes in people's most precious garments, carpets and upholstery. Ellen was listed in Who's Who in American Business and was a longtime member of the local Chamber of Commerce, and the Christian Women's Business Association and the Eastern Star. She loved ballroom dancing and taught classes at night at the Arthur Miller Dance Studio in Omaha, NE, in her youth. It was there she met and became friends with Lawrence Welk, who had her dance on his TV show several times. She died May 25, 2005 at age 96 years.

Ellen was preceded in death by her husband, Edward L. Mears, whom she married in 1941. She was widowed in 1975. She is survived by her sons, Michael Mears of Discovery Bay, CA and Dr. William Mears of Mt. Hermon, CA; her grandchildren, Connie, Matthew, Benjamin, Hayley, Jonathan, Mary, Jesse, Daniel and Allison; and her great-granddaughter, Kimberly.

Services were held June 17, 2005, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in San Carlos, CA, with burial at Skyline Memorial Park.