

## **Mildred "Millie" Johnson**

About a year ago, at Easter time 2017, the Cloquet Country Club lost a CCC matriarch with the passing of Millie Johnson.

Mildred Tario was born in Cloquet in February, 1925 and died last year at over 92 years old. She has won more Cloquet Women's Club Tournaments than any other female member. She won titles in 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1982, and 1986—a total of seven championships! (several women, over CCC illustrious history, have won multiple titles. Mavis Evenson (3), Mrs. P. E. Olin (3), Mrs. C. W. Jensen (4), Mrs. J. Jenkins (5), Kim Maki (5), and more recently Mary Golin with 3 and Arica Sheff in 2016 and 2017.)

Millie grew up in Cloquet and graduated from Cloquet High School. She operated a very successful Beauty Salon in Central Cloquet for several years. Millie later in life married another CCC member and business owner Kenny Johnson. **The Johnson Company** was by far and away the largest department/clothing store in Cloquet. Millie, for decades, then managed the *Treasure Shop* which was attached to the Johnson Company and was also influential in the stores women's clothing dept . The Treasure Shop was *the* stop in town for china dishes, collectibles, and greeting cards. The Store, in the early 60's, prior to the development of malls and other chain department stores, was a landmark in town. During the Holidays and other special occasions, it was very difficult to find a parking place near its Cloquet Avenue location.

Millie was always known for her grace, work ethic, and generosity. She had a tremendous smile and treated all with respect. So, it was a little surprising to some, to witness her competitiveness on the golf course....she hated to lose. Ms. Johnson also must have had a sour taste for long grass or the rough for she seldom was in it. She was one of the straightest drivers of the ball in CCC history. She held leadership roles in the Club and was a mainstay with the Women's League for many years. Her usual Tuesday "Ladies Day" group included golf, lunch, card games, and lots of laughs.

Millie and Kenny did get to spend several winters vacationing and golfing in retirement in Arizona but, unfortunately, not all of their dreams were realized due to Kenny's untimely death and Millie's medical issues. Millie donated several of the trophies she won at CCC to the Carlton County Historical Society. She, to the end, enjoyed watching golf on TV and getting together with cherished friends.

Thanks, Millie, for your years of support and leadership and being part of the storied history of the Cloquet Country Club.