



in. Everyone in the class of 1956 loved her and never tired of listening to her speak.

Mari Luz Palacios returned to Madrid on June 25, 1956. She then attended the University of Madrid to study medicine. But Mari Luz loved her experience as the first exchange student to Shakopee.



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## SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



# Mari-Luz Palacios

In Shakopee 1955-1956



Mari Luz Palacios arrived in Shakopee, Minnesota on August 25, 1955. She was the first of many exchange students to visit Shakopee High School.

Mari Luz Palacois was from Madrid, Spain. When she arrived in Shakopee, she stayed with Dr. Bror Folke Pearson (1906-2004) and his wife, Elizabeth Stephens Pearson and their three daughters and one son. Dr. Pearson was a doctor in Shakopee for 42 years. In 1970 the B.F. Pearson Elementary School on 917 Dakota Street South was named after Dr. Pearson. In 2012 it was changed to Pearson Sixth Grade Center, and since 2020 it is



The Shakopee Rotary Club sponsor exchange students, both in-coming and out-coming. The Club meets on Tuesday at Dangerfield's Restaurant, 1583 First Avenue East. At right is Dr. Bror Folke Pearson, who, along with his family, took care of Mari Luz Palacios from Madrid, Spain, the first exchange student to Shakopee.



the Pearson Early Learning Center. Mari Luz Palacios stayed with the family for one year.

In Shakopee both outside exchanged students and exchange students arriving in Shakopee impact their lives and the lives of the families. The Shakopee Rotary Club, which was founding in 1955, had 82 outboard students to 22 different counties.

The Shakopee Rotary Club hosted 74 inbound exchange students from 30 different countries.

Mari Luz adjusted to her new life in America very well. She was selected as a candidate for homecoming princess in the fall of 1955. Her school spirit was exhibited at the games and the many activities that she took part

