

## Homeschooling Mothers

**Heidi (Nordlund) Lestelle** and **Kristen (Nordlund) Harkson**, daughters of **Gayle (Nevitt) Nordlund**, 1917-2003, have home-schooled each of their children, now ages 12 to 29.

Out of love for their children, they wanted to be involved in their children's educational process, learning with them and being able to thrill the moment each one "got it." A bond, a camaraderie, developed between them. They wanted to set a more challenging academic standard than the public schools offered in their area of Washington.

Along with the basics, they were able in this one-on-one setting to let each child pursue his or her interests, letting each progress at his/her own pace. The school day was all day, every day, not six hours on weekdays. They were free to travel with grandparents, making it an educational adventure.

Without any formal training, they went to curriculum fairs and joined with other home-schooling parents to capitalize on the expertise of one another, e.g. music, drama, science. The challenge and discipline for them was to research and make lesson plans.

They were also able to choose the right time to enroll their children in the public school — usually middle or high school. Some children find it hard to handle the hostile secular environment in a public high school. Protecting their family's Christian values has been important to these mothers.

To Heidi and Kristi nothing else mattered other than to be a successful parent with their children.

**Heidi (Nordlund) Lestelle & Kristen (Nordlund) Harkson** *From: Gayle (Nevitt) Nordlund, Hon. Oak Dale Nevitt, Zerelda Weaver (Blasdel) Nevitt, Henry Waring Blasdel, Elijah Blasdel — (6.235)*