

# Rosemary Home



**Location:** 724 S. Sibley Avenue, Litchfield, MN.

Dorothea (Simons) Kopplin, daughter of Orlando and Effie-Post Simons, was born in Glencoe, MN on March 20, 1898. She moved to Litchfield to teach English where she met and married Edwin H. Kopplin on June 2, 1923. The couple had a son on March 14, 1924 and named him Edwin Jr. When she became pregnant with her second child there were complications. The doctor told Dorothea, "I'm sorry to tell you this, but if you bring this baby to term; it will most certainly kill you." Her husband grabbed her hand and said "Isn't there something you can do, doctor?" The doctor said, "Terminate the pregnancy." Dorothea told the doctor, "I will not kill this baby." The doctor turned to Dorothea and said, "Dorothea, you understand then that you will probably die in childbirth?" She bowed her head and nodded and was confined to bed for the rest of her pregnancy.

As she was confined to bed rest, she thought about how she wouldn't be there to guide her children and give them advice as they grew up and wondered what she might do about it. Dorothea said, "The task was to bridge the gap in education not filled in by church or schools. I wanted to leave a chart or blueprint for guiding and teaching such a way of life to my son and daughter." She had been collecting her favorite sayings since she was a child so she decided she would add her own thoughts to the collection so they would serve as a substitute to her children.

On April 21, 1928, by a miracle or because of the bed rest or a combination of both, Dorothea and her baby girl survived the child birth. The baby was named Rosemary. Needless to say, these were very happy times for the family. She and her children spent a lot of time outdoors in their lovely gardens. They had a small pond in one of the gardens with a waterfall out back. The Kopplin family grew vegetables and set up market in the front yard and sold them to passersby.

Then tragedy struck the family when they learned Rosemary had leukemia. Sadly, Rosemary passed

away on March 16, 1934 at the age of 6 and was buried at Lake Ripley Cemetery in Litchfield. Dorothea never forgot the kindness the Litchfield Hospital nurses showed Rosemary during her illness.

The family was devastated but never lost their faith. It was hard to move forward, but by the grace of God life did go on. At this time, it seemed that Edwin's parents had the Midas touch. They built buildings and businesses all over town.

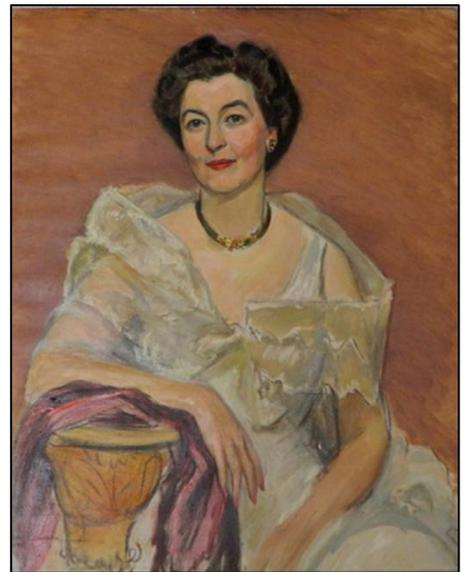
Dorothea's parents passed away and left her 14 farms and businesses in Minnesota and Wisconsin. She was very community minded and generous with charities and especially favored medical charities.

Dorothea then decided to publish her collection of the inspirational sayings she had collected along with her thoughts because she wanted to help others during times of tragedy. She spent many years trying to identify the selections to give proper credit. The book was named, "Something To Live By" and was dedicated to her husband Edwin. The book was published in 1945 and became a best seller and Dorothea Kopplin became a world famous author! During WWII, her book was given to GI's by various groups and Dorothea gave the royalties for their sales to the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs to be used for nursing scholarships. Years would go by and her book resurged in popularity.

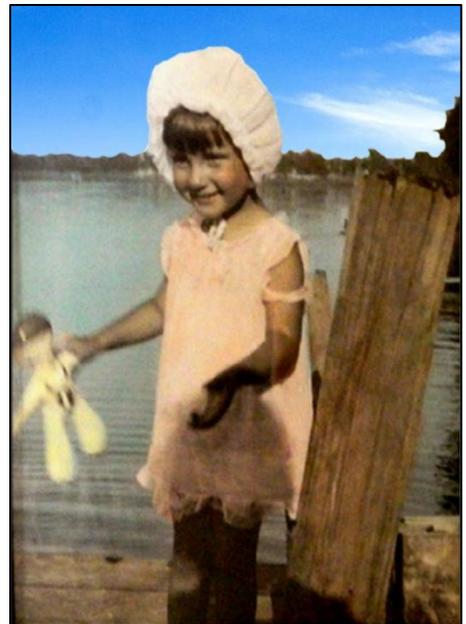
In 1949, Dorothea was named Minnesota Mother of the Year. In 1955, she wrote another book, "Scriptures To Live By". While she had been writing books and becoming a world famous author, her husband's businesses flourished and he began spending more and more time away from home. Things between them became strained and they divorced in 1956. By this time, their son Edwin Jr. had grown up and joined the Navy. Dorothea found herself living alone in a big mansion.

Dorothea had a small circle of friends, and one of them was Norma Berke. She owned two dogs and named them "King" and "Queenie" and how she loved them!! They were great companions for her and she was frequently seen riding around town with them in her Cadillac. She even allowed them to sit at the dining room table and eat ice cream. Both dogs were buried out in the backyard of the Rosemary Home. The exact location of their graves in the yard is not known.

As Dorothea grew older, she watched the homes around her go into disrepair. She decided that she was not going to let that happen to her home. She determined to do something lasting that would preserve her home along with benefitting businesswomen. The reason she wanted to do this was because she never forgot the care and loving concern nurses had shown her daughter Rosemary. She made the decision to set up an estate with the following instructions:



Dorothea (Simons) Kopplin



Rosemary Kopplin

- The main floor had to stay the same and the entire house had to be kept in good repair.
- The house could not be turned into a museum.
- The second story had to be converted into a dormitory with 5 bedrooms housing 2 students each.
- Dorothea's bedroom and the nursery had to stay intact.
- The house would be used as a home for female college students, such as nursing students studying at hospitals, nurses themselves, student teachers at public schools and businesswomen.
- Community and charitable groups could use the main floor for free for meetings.
- The house had to be named "Rosemary Home" after her daughter.

This is how the Rosemary Home was born!

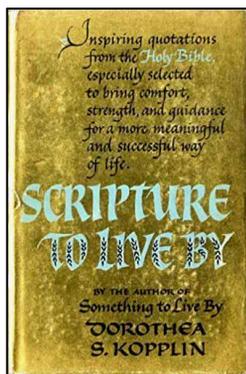
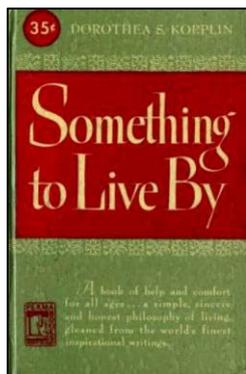
It wasn't long after this that Dorothea was diagnosed with breast cancer. When she was too ill to stay at home any longer, she entered the Meeker County Hospital where she had her own bed, dresser, chair and curtains brought in so she could feel more at home. She passed away on September 14, 1970 and is buried at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis.

On November 25, 1973, the Rosemary Home had an open house and a huge crowd of people stood in line in the cold rain waiting to come inside to see how Dorothea, the famous authoress, had lived in her mansion.

The Rosemary Home has an active board that meets throughout the year. If you would like more information, please call 320-593-1800.

Reference:

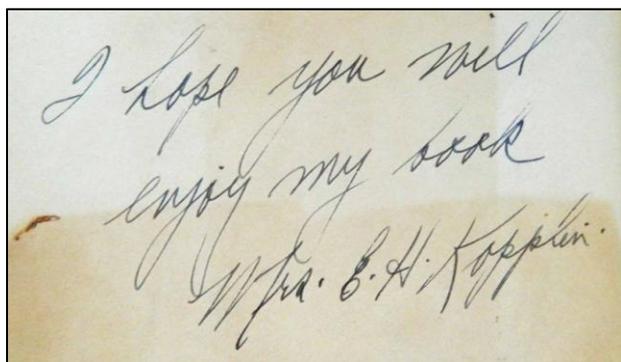
Shaw, Terry, (2004) Terry Tales 2, Willmar, MN: Terandlo Publishing.



Kopplin's books can be purchased on Amazon.com



Publicity Photo



Book signed by Dorothea

# Newspaper Clippings

## Book Review

### MRS. KOPPLIN'S BOOK REVIEW HOLDS AUDIENCE ATTENTIVE

Monday evening about three hundred interested persons attended the first review of Mrs. Edwin H. Kopplin's newly published book, "Something To Live By." She reviewed the book in a charming manner, stating that she did not wish to be considered a writer. Rather, like a composer who combines notes and phrases into a beautiful motif, so she has taken the bits of wisdom of ages past and woven them into a pattern for rich, harmonious living. She prefers to think of the book as the outpouring of a mother-heart giving to her son in one volume the philosophy that would make his life full, "something to live by."

The book is the result of twenty patient years of work. Twelve of those twenty were spent in research hunting to their sources the 700 quotations cited. The book is dedicated to her son, Edwin. The fourteen chapters give a broad coverage of the intangible things that are personality and character building. Certainly a book that at this time should be found to contain spiritual help to many who through war strain need the philosophy propounded in its pages.

During the review the deep appreciation of the listeners was evidenced by their wrapt attention. About fifty copies of the book were sold at the close of the review. It may be purchased thru the Woman's Club, or Mrs. Kopplin, or the Lofstrom Drug Store. All proceeds go to a fund for the education of girls between 18 and 40, for nurses training.

Mrs. P. J. Casey introduced Mrs. Kopplin at the review, recalling her efforts in organizing the South Side Mother's Club, which

...audience also enjoyed music by a high school string trio which is to go to the state music convention, songs by Jeanette Robbs, and the cello, violin and piano selections of Mrs. Edward Gebhard, Mrs. Donald Koch and Mrs. Gertrude Crosby-Johnson.

Earlier in the evening E. H. Kopplin had as his guests at dinner at the Lenhardt hotel Mrs. Kopplin and the committee who sponsored the review. They were Mrs. T. F. McClure, Mrs. E. W. Anderson, Mrs. Emil W. Anderson, Mrs. Walfred J. Lund, Mrs. Frank E. Lawrence, Mrs. Alva R. Hunt, Mrs. P. J. Casey and Mrs. W. C. Whitney. The committee presented Mrs. Kopplin with a corsage of red carnations.

### MRS. KOPPLIN GIVEN HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. E. H. Kopplin received notice this week from Cyril Clemens, president of the International Mark Twain Society, that the executive committee has voted her an honorary membership in their society because of her book, "Something to Live By." Honorary membership, he informs her, is not open to all authors, but only to those who have made a distinct contribution to the culture of the world. The literary contribution must be of international value to all races, creeds, and colors.

Mrs. Kopplin's book will be included in the collection of books by authors of the International Society which is maintained in the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C.

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Mrs. E. H. Kopplin was heard on a fifteen-minute broadcast over KFAM radio station at St. Cloud Tuesday afternoon. That evening she gave a review of her book, "Something to Live By" to the Literary Club of that city.



Edwin Jr.



Edwin Jr. in the backyard of the Rosemary Home



Rosemary



Rosemary in the backyard of the Rosemary Home



Ripley Cemetery



Dorothea with King and Queenie