

## News-Sentinel, The (Fort Wayne, IN) - Sunday, November 23, 2003

Fort Wayne IN United States

VIRGINIA (BLOSSER) BITEMAN, 91, died Nov. 12, 2003, at Bayside Care Home in Arcata, Calif. Born July 2, 1912, in Fort Wayne, she was a graduate of Fort Wayne Central High School in 1930, Western College for Women, and The Art Institute of Chicago. She was an Artist, a member of the Fort Wayne Artist's Guild, teacher of Art in the Fort Wayne Community Schools and the Fort Wayne Art School, a devout Christian and member of the First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, and St. Albans Episcopal Church, Arcata, Calif. She studied Art in Paris with her life-long friend, Phyllis Lang, of Fort Wayne, and was college roommate to fellow artist, Grace Leslie Dickerson.

Virginia eloped with Robert Biteman to begin their lifetime of mutual devotion and 52-year marriage. In 1988, following their Florida retirement, they relocated to Arcata, Calif., where Virginia was widowed in 1991. She was loving mother to James H. Biteman, of Arcata, John E. Biteman, M.D. of Arcata, and Anne Marie (Biteman) Shirmeyer of Fort Wayne; cherished sister of Florence (Blosser) Ericson, and Charlotte (Blosser) Glock, both of whom preceded her in death; beloved grandmother to 13; and great-grandmother of 11.

Virginia was called 'Grandma' by many children, as her home was always open for an art lesson and cookies. She is fondly remembered by her children and grandchildren for loving moments, wise thoughts, humor, and creative activities. 'Ginny', as her friends called her, always had a smile and a kind word. Perhaps her motto for life was expressed in one of her many favorite sayings, 'May God grant you the artist's gay and gypsy-like acceptance of life as he finds it.' Although her life was often not easy, she always accepted it as it was, finding reasons for joy and happiness. She was a source of light and inspiration for those who shared her fellowship or came to her for prayer. Although Virginia left us gradually, her gentleness and caring were evident into her last and 91st year. God was her constant companion, and He has undoubtedly welcomed her into eternity." A memorial service will be arranged in Arcata, Calif.