Mary Gillette

Personal History:

Born in Schenectady, NY 1914

- At age of 10 was injured in left eye and lost sight in that eye for remainder of life
- High School Education at Mount Pleasant High School, NY, Class of 1932
- Moved to Florida in 1948 with her father Biagio (who was a immigrant from Italy in 1912), a millwright, who worked for Thomas Edison's company (GE) in NY
- Toured Europe extensively with her son visiting ten countries including her ancestral home of Italy
- Died in Florida in 2008 at age 93. Her only surgery was hip replacement.

Work History / Financial History:

- Never held a job in 93 years; no W2's; no paychecks. Paid all her taxes.
- Owned and managed her own real estate investments with a high school education and self-taught.
- Made one Wall Street investment in Wang Computer Systems at the insistence of her son in the late 60s. She sold the investment a few years later at a small profit. Other than that she shunned all investments in Wall Street as too risky and invested ONLY in CDs and Savings Accounts and Real Estate and small businesses.
- She and her husband Wesley owned a Gulf Oil gas station in Miami and a small gift store in Hialeah, Florida.
- Real Estate Holdings since arriving in Florida included a "Tourist Home" that she managed with her father in the 50s, various lots held in Miami and in Palm Beach County, a four unit apartment building in Miami, a combination duplex and single-family home in Miami, a twelve unit apartment building in Miami, a duplex in Miami and condominium apartments in both Hollywood, Florida and West Palm Beach, Florida
- Sent her son to a private university (all paid with cash; no student debt).
- As a single mom supported her son from the age of 13 on just a small social security payment (from her dead husband) and the rental and CD incomes.
- Was a self-taught expert in health and nutrition
- Died with NO DEBT and somehow managed to have a $146.32 check sent to her son four months AFTER she died. I can show you the check. Had a modest estate of a few hundred thousand dollars. Owned all of her real estate free-and-clear when she sold it.
- Was NOT cheap. She was extremely CAREFUL with her money – there is a difference.

Survived by her son, Christopher, his wife Dana, and four grandchildren.