



Jean Marie Gano Prew

Jean passed away on January 23, 2015. Her passing was peaceful and she was with family, which meant so much to her. She was trying to make it to 100 yrs old, and got pretty close at just six weeks shy of 94. Jean was able to remain in her home with little assistance up until two weeks prior to her passing. She was born on March 11, 1921 in Grandview, WA to Benjamin Gano (1889-1976) and Beatrice (Rosencrantz) Gano (1900-1961). Jean saw many things happen in her lifetime. She witnessed great changes in transportation, saw trips to space, major advances in electrical technology, computers and telephones. She lived through the great depression of the 1930's, through World War II, and victory gardens. She witnessed 16 presidents come into office, prohibition, women gaining the right to vote, and major advances in medical science. Jean was the first patient to receive cyber knife cancer treatment at SW Washington Medical Center.

Jean worked in the restaurant business for many years before opening her own restaurant, Jeanie's Coffee Cup, in Hazel Dell in the 1960's. She eventually sold the restaurant to her sister Lenore, before going to work for Clark County as cook/matron at the jail. She transferred to the juvenile facility which was located in a house at the time. Jean was a key driving force that helped design the

building and program that we now have for juvenile offenders. She stayed with the county until her retirement. She spent the next 18 years working with the foster grandparent program tutoring at-risk kids. She also enjoyed gardening, flowers and cooking meals and goodies for family and friends. Some of her best times were spent at our local parks and lakes. She loved cat fishing and picnicking with her family. She lived to serve others. If there was anyone in need, she was the one that could make things happen to help the situation. In her later years, Jean found much joy in feeding the birds and squirrels who visited her porch throughout the day. She named her favorites and could tell you the personalities of them all. Her brother Ellis (92) was very special to her, and they spoke on the phone several times a day. The past few years Jean enjoyed writing books, she started off with memoirs and moved into writing little children's books for great nieces and others. She told many stories of her younger years by recording them onto many cassette tapes. Her wishes are for her memoir to be published so others can learn about how lovely life was in the "good ol' days" despite so much hardship. She always talked of how good people were back then.

Jean is survived by one son, Donald Wiese of Dallas, OR, step-daughter and grandson Cathy and Christopher Davis of Vancouver, WA; brother Ellis (Betty) Gano of Collville, WA, brother Ben (Shirley) of Ranier, OR, eight grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and seven nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her daughter Donna Thompson, sister Lenore Ford, parents Benjamin and Beatrice Gano and her partner for over 20 years William Howard Prew.

Jean wished to be cremated and to be scattered into the local waters she loved so much. There will be a Celebration of Life picnic this summer at Horseshoe Lake Park which was one of her favorite picnic spots. Evergreen Memorial Gardens was in charge of cremation. Please contact Michelle Vanderhoef (360) 606-3717 if you would like details as plans are made for her celebration.