

Leona Smick (Maw) Holyk

faithful servant, peacefully went home to her Lord, December 22, 2011 surrounded by her beloved family. Leona was born to immigrant parents, May 24, 1916 in Montana. There she was raised on a farm with her five brothers. While working at the Fort Peck Dam project in Montana, she met John Holyk, Sr. They were married on New Years Eve 1934-35 as the ceremony lasted past midnight! They then went on to welcome three children, Johnny, Mary and Sherri.

In the early 1940's, Leona worked in the Kaiser Shipyards as a "Rosie" the Electrician. (A video of her interview of life as a "Rosie" is available to view at The National Historic Park, Richmond, CA.)

1943 brought Leona and John to Battle Ground, WA where they founded John's Shoes and Clothing. When Leona turned 50 she and John became avid snowbirds spending winters in Mesa, AZ. There she learned to swim and then went on to teach many others, including all visiting grandkids. There they began a sunglasses business selling at the popular AZ Flea Markets and at the Barn Marche' in Battle Ground during summers.

Leona (Maw) was active in Campfire Girls, cooking for church organizations and original Bingo Stand builder/operator for early Harvest Days Festivals. She was a prolific writer and story teller of living history, grower of gardens and nurturer of bodies and souls. Her greatest joy in life were children and her house was filled with flour dusted little bakers learning to make Maw's cinnamon rolls and other goodies! Her other passion was dancing.

Common Maw'isms: "Looking for a good right hand man? Then look at the end of your arm!" "Don't sweat the small stuff, especially when it comes to kids," and "I needed this long life—I have so much to do!"

Leona was preceded in death by her husband John Holyk, Sr. and her adopted son/nephew Harry Smick, parents and siblings. She is survived by her three children, John Holyk, Jr. (Shirley), Mary Cramer (Danny) and Sherri Holyk; nine grandchildren, 19 greats and 12 great-greats; numerous nieces, nephews and friends, all of whom she loved, adored and was so proud of.

As per her request there will be no services. She was cremated and the remains buried with her husband's in Willamette National Cemetery. There will be a party in her honor later this year. Please make a donation to the food bank of your choice in Leona's memory.

Maw we all love and miss you so. We were lucky to have you in our lives and now in our hearts. Her words at the end of the evening ... "Schlafe gut!"

