



Jean M. Miller

April 30, 1918 - March 3, 2014

Jean M. Miller, 95, Valley City, ND died Monday, March 3, 2014 at the Sheyenne Care Center. A memorial service and celebration of her life will be held at Sheyenne Riverbend Farm on Saturday, May 3, 2014 at 4:00 PM.

Jean Margaret Pederson was born April 30, 1918 in Valley City, the daughter of Carl and Elna Pederson. She attended King School in Marsh township and graduated high school from the Normal School in Valley City.

On September 25, 1937 she was united in marriage to William "Bevo" Miller in Valley City. They farmed together, raising dairy cattle and small grains.

She was a member of First Lutheran, now Faith Lutheran, in Valley City where she taught Sunday School and was active in the women's group. Jean served on the board of directors for Barnes County Historical Society and Fort Seward Wagon Train and was very active in numerous clubs and organizations.

Jean was a historian and loved reading history books and collecting historical items. She often shared these things with schools and clubs. As the historian on the annual Wagon Train, each night around the campfire she taught the interesting history facts of the area and North Dakota. She was the 2009 recipient of the ND Historical Society's Excellence in Local History Award.

Jean is survived by sons, Leonard and John (Elise) both of Valley City; daughters, Maxine Miller of Valley City and Patricia (Loren) Rode of Adrian, ND; daughter-in-law, Mary Ann Miller of Valley City; 7 grandchildren; 20 great grandchildren; and a brother, Clayton Pederson of Valley City.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William; her parents; three brothers; and a sister.

Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel has been entrusted with arrangements. An online guestbook is available at www.oliver-nathanchapel.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 3. 4:00 PM (CT)

Sheyenne Riverbend Farm
3716 SE 117th Ave.
Valley City, ND 58072

Tribute Wall

GA

“ I was so sorry to hear of Jean's passing. She was a special person and a favorite of mine when I was at the care center. I think she really loved her "foot spas" and I was glad I could provide them. She talked often of their farm and living on the river. My thoughts are with all of her family. I'm sure she will be greatly missed.

Gail - May 05, 2014 at 08:26 PM

DB

“ Your mother is never gone; just look into your heart and you will feel her love and presence in your life. I have many fond memories of Jean throughout my years. As a very young teacher, she helped me with the costumes for a high school play I was directing. When we met at her home to discuss the costumes, she gave me a wonderful history lesson! I loved the story about the Native Americans her father encountered along the Sheyenne River. When she became a resident at Sheyenne Care Center, she was a friend and table mate with my mom. She always greeted you with a warm smile. On Feburary 25th we enjoyed a short visit. My sincere sympathies to the entire family. She will long be remembered as a wonderful life-long resident of Barnes County and perhaps some day a family member will put her memories and historical data into a book. Diane Pedersen Bjerke

Diane Bjerke - March 12, 2014 at 12:29 PM

LD

“ I met Jean on the Fort Seward Wagon Train in the early 1970's. She was a remarkable and talented woman, in so many ways! Her passion for our state history, antiques, and quilting...we were so lucky that she shared that with us, and 1,000's of other people who came on the wagon train the years she was also there. I just regret that my problems, and busy schedule kept me from visiting her during her nursing home stay, I would of really liked to have seen her a few more times. Will have to wait now until we all get together at that campfire up yonder. Linda Deutscher

Linda Deutscher - March 11, 2014 at 09:57 AM

DO

“ Jean was an elegant, gracious lady.

Dorothy Orts - March 08, 2014 at 03:38 AM

LN

“ I had the honor of assisting Jean with crafts on the Ft. Seward Wagon Train. We had a marvelous friendship, and my sister Gail and I also looking forward to visiting Jean each year as we traveled from Iowa to the Dakotas for the pioneer experience. My favorite memory is from the first year 1989, while walking with Jean I said, "May I ask how old you are?" To which she said, "Yes", but then nothing more. When I said, "Well....?" Jean replied, "But that doesn't mean I am going to tell you!" We laughed, and I never did find out how old she was. But it made no difference, Jean and I had a wonderful friendship when every year, for one week, my heart joined hers on the Dakota prairie.

Linda Jo Nehring & Gail Goodell

Linda JO Nehring - March 07, 2014 at 09:59 PM

DB

“ *Miller Family:*

We were so sad to hear of Jean's passing and will keep the Miller family in our prayers in the coming days. We knew Jean and Bill from the Fort Seward Wagon Train and have stopped by the farm and then the nursing home every year since Jean stopped coming on the ride. She was a sweet, caring, and wonderful person to know over the years. We first met her in around 1980 and we have been coming on the ride since then and like I said, we stopped and visited with Jean on the way. We will certainly miss the yearly visits we had with Jean.

*God Bless,
Don & Sharilyn Beem - thebeems@aol.com*



Donald & Sharilyn Beem - March 07, 2014 at 03:38 PM

AM

“ *My sympathy goes out to your family at this time, losing your Mother. She was one sweet lady! I haven't seen her in many years, but we were friends when our kids went to College High in elementary school. You have many wonderful memories, I know!*
Ardis Martin (Jon Wagars' Mom)

Ardis Martin - March 07, 2014 at 10:13 AM

LD

“ *So sorry to hear of your mother's passing. She was always so active and so caring.*
The Danielson's

Larry Danielson - March 06, 2014 at 11:22 PM

KR

“ *My sympathies to all of the family. I have been friends with her granddaughter Emily since grade school and have many good memories of Grandma Jean. May the precious memories you all have help bring you peace in the days ahead. Karen Rice*

Karen Rice - March 06, 2014 at 06:22 PM

CA

“ *So sorry to read of your loss. She will be missed. The Lord has taken her to her reward.*

Carol Artis - March 04, 2014 at 01:41 PM