



Jean Odette Culbertson

July 12, 1922 - April 2, 2009

Jean Odette Culbertson, 86, of Fort Collins, died April 2, 2009 at Pathways Hospice Unit at McKee Medical Center in Loveland. Mrs. Culbertson was born July 12, 1922 in Golden, Colorado to Seymour Warren and Odette Waite Warren. Jean married William "Bill" R. Culbertson in March of 1942. Jean was recently honored by Poudre Valley Hospital for over 20, 000 hours of volunteer work at the hospital. She started her volunteer work in October of 1984. Jean was a member of the Aspen Club Poudre Valley Hospital Auxiliary and a member of the Episcopal Church Survivors include her husband, William "Bill" R. Culbertson of Ft. Collins; three sons, David Culbertson of Ft. Collins, Steve Culbertson and his wife Sharon of Parker, Colorado, and Richard Culbertson of Anchorage Alaska; and two grandchildren, Chad and Chris. Preceding Jean in death are her parents. A Memorial Service will be held at Bohlender Funeral Chapel, on Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to WarrenTech Foundation, 13300W 2nd Place, Lakewood, CO 80228.

Tribute Wall

SP

“ Dear Bill and David and family, My deepest condolences. Jean was such a vibrant spirit in Fort Collins -- how will Poudre Valley Hospital function without her? Her patience with all the students and teachers at Riffenburgh was memorable. As a new teacher, she helped me get organized and taught me to relax with a pair of knitting needles. Fond memories --Jean will not be forgotten. With love, Sharon

Sharon Panik - April 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Dear Bill and Family....I was so saddened to hear about Jean. She was always such a bright light when she and I worked together in schools in Ft. Collins. Her enthusiasm, sense of humor, hard work in all she did, and looking for the best in everything were so appreciated by so many of the lives that she touched. Here's to Jean: you will be missed, but not forgotten....

Bob Asmus - April 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ To this day, every time I knit something, I think of Jean. She taught me so, so much...starting with knitting in 4-H many years ago. Along the way, she threw in some math when she made me figure out how much I'd have to knit each day to get my project done in time for county fair judging. Then it was time management. Starting 4-H projects early is a great virtue...one I never quite developed, but a virtue 4-Hers strive for nonetheless. Quality assurance was the biggest lesson I learned from Jean. Whether a mistake was in the first row I had knit, or the last, it had to be fixed. She never let us let one slide. Champion ribbons are earned from such efforts and I earned many, thanks to Jean. Family treasures are made from such efforts, too. I have lots still in my house from my 4-H years, all thanks to Jean. You know, the things she taught me in 4-H are pretty good life lessons, too. Start projects early. Fix your mistakes, no matter how long ago you made them or how many tears it takes to undo them. Do a good job, actually do the best job possible, and good things will come of it. And while you're at it, create beautiful things people can use and enjoy for years and years. Thank you, Jean, for teaching me so many things I've carried with me into my life as a mother, a teacher, a wife, and a 4-H leader. Your influence was deep, very much appreciated, and will continue for generations of knitters and procrastinating 4-Hers to come. I hope you took some yarn and knitting needles up to heaven with you. The angels could use some cute hats and you've got some good time on your hands. We love you! Mary Beth Kaehler Solano

Mary Beth Kaehler Solano - April 06, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ I had the honor and pleasure of knowing Jean Culbertson for the past 9 years. My memories of her are sweet and fun, filled with her history, her advice, sprinkled with a few shared tears. She was a woman of immeasurable fortitude, the envy of those 50 years her junior. Jean's drive to stay busy, be challenged, learn new things, and do a good job were demonstrated every time I saw her. After getting to know Jean as a volunteer and friend for a couple of years, I said to her "I don't know if I want to hire you or adopt you!" Lucky for me, she was both a co-worker and friend for many years following. I will miss Jean so much - Love You Jean! Debbie

Debbie Highman - April 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ I want to thank Bill for calling me and leaving a message about Jean on my cell phone. I was in the hospital fighting bronchial pneumonia and couldn't retrieve the call for several days. I was shocked at the news but know the Jean is in a better place and free from pain and suffering. She was a friend for over 30 years and I will miss her phone calls and emails. Her fortitude, strength and willingness to help others will be missed by many. My deepest sympathy to all her family members..... May peace find your hearts. Diane Solomon

Diane Solomon Blazer - April 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ When I worked at PVH, Jean would often volunteer in our department. She was such a fun and positive person, no job was too big or too small for her. Her service to the hospital was immeasurable. If there were more people like her in the world, it would be a much better place!

Marilyn Goad - April 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM

WR

“ *It was my great pleasure to get to know Jean over the past two and a half years. We looked forward to her volunteer day and the chance to reconnect. Jean was not ready to give up her "day job". She was sharp and enjoyed getting out and contributing. She will be greatly missed.*

Wendy Reko - April 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Bill and Family, I wrote a poem 3-28-02 for Jean and Bill's 60th Anniversary and it says about everything I remember about our friendship so I am sending it today. We will certainly miss Jean... Happy 60th Anniversary, Jean and Bill Our lives go back in time, more than a year or two. When Bill and Ralph started working for CSU. Back then it was Extension Service at Colorado A&M. That was when guys worked hard and really gave a damn. Bill and Ralph went from being outstanding County Agents, so fine, to the best State Specialists of their time. I guess it actually started when they were going to college. They worked and studied hard to gain all that amazing knowledge. The four of us really didn't connect until sometime in nineteen sixty one, when we came to Fort Collins and joined Jean and Bill for the long run. While Bill was away working and making a name for himself. Jean was at home raising David, Steve and Richard, sometimes by herself. She was also a Teacher's Aid and Swimming Instructor. We can't forget, cleaning the house before she went out the door. We remember Jean as the incredible knitting and crocheting teacher our four girls had. Jean, you taught them to knit and crochet place mats, sweaters and other doodads. What hectic times we all had getting ready for "The County Fair." You were an outstanding 4-H leader because you really did care. I have enjoyed your friendship so much, Jean, for all these years. I loved our visits when I'd drop off the girls, you have always been so very dear. Bill, we remember your horses, beautiful line drawings and pictures you painted. We had fun at Stock Show and Annual Conference when we all got a little tainted. Those were the days when you could have a good time and not have to worry, for fear we'd do or say something that could send us before a jury. Your lives were enriched when Steve married Sharon. You have wonderful Grandchildren for "lovin and carin." Retirement did send you into your new rewarding pastimes, Bill as a notable artist and Jean a PVH Volunteer where you really do shine. What many fond memories we have of you two. If we had it to do over again, our friendship we'd certainly renew. Our friendship has been very good and strong, even though we don't see you for stretches, so long, when we're together we can pick up where we left off. We sit and

enjoy ourselves while we catch up, laugh and sometimes scoff. It appears that life has been good to you, both. It's hard to believe it's been that long since you were betrothed. Congratulations on your "60" years together, there is no one in this world who could have done it any better... We send our Sympathy and Love, Marilyn and Ralph

Marilyn and Ralph Kotich - April 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JD

“*Dear Bill and family; I have hundreds and hundreds of vivid memories of Jean; they are some of my favorite childhood memories - the 'over-the-back-fence' chats; sitting at our picnic table teaching me to knit until darkness set in; she came running and held me close when my brother's dog died. She taught me to swim and carried me through to Lifesaving at the old Ammons Hall. We had lots of years there together. I was lucky enough to be one of her 'adopted' girls. She listened and laughed and helped and loved me like another mom. I don't remember the Loomis house before Jean and Bill. Then she was one of my first visitors when our first baby, Danielle, was born 22 years ago at PVH. I am so happy that I told Jean every time I saw her how significant she was to my childhood. Jean will forever be in my heart. I'm pretty sure she and my mom and dad are in heaven happily drinking coffee and knitting at a picnic table. Love to all of the Culbertsons. Jill Fisher Dubler*

Jill Fisher Dubler - April 05, 2009 at 12:00 AM