



## Joann L. Blehm

March 11, 1932 - January 26, 2014

We are here to close the final chapter of Joann Blehm's life. If adversity builds character then Joann's personality was molded at an early age and to say she had a hard life is an understatement. We know Joann met this adversity with her fists up ready for the fight. Joann did not go down easy. Joann loved living on her farm. She was proud to carry on the agricultural heritage from her grandparents, both the Krug's and Elder's but particularly the Elders. She lived all her adult life on the place they established in 1918. Grandad Elder J.S and Grannie Mom Maude doted and spoiled Joann; not only because she was an only child, but because she was their precious granddaughter. She brought joy and a deep love to their lives. You might say this is because she was a replacement for their daughter, Helen who died as a child. But most likely it was because she was Joann whose character and language made her a truly unique person. Ask yourself have you every known anyone like Joann? It is doubtful. When Joann Elder and Tony Blehm married in 1951 it was the beginning of a partnership in marriage and farming. Together they worked to maintain and improve the farm and therefore their lives. Two sons joined them: Mike in 1953 and Kevin in 1954. The boys learned the value of work from their father and learned shrewd financial management from their mother. Tony's tragic death in 1972 brought an end to another chapter of Joann's life. Many people would have curled up in the corner after a spouse's untimely death. But not Joann, her astute understanding of how to make and keep a dollar, in a volatile industry such as farming, sustained Joann after Tony's

death. Joann continued to farm with the help of her sons and Jack and Pearl Mair. Joann was the quintessential farmwoman providing support, financial knowledge and helping with the cattle. Joan partook in the day to day operation until the time of her death. We cannot remember Joann without talking about animals. She loved her critters especially her cats. Pusser, her black and white torn cat, who lived to be 20 years old was one of her favorites. Not many people could tell Joann anything but when Pusser wanted something Joann made sure his every need was met. How else could a cat live to be this old? Joann and Pusser's favorite pass time was lying on the couch watching television. Joann was always interested in history particular about Wellington and Northern Larimer County. Wellington celebrated its centennial in 2005. The Elder-Blehm Farm was recognized as a Heritage Farm. Joann and grandson, Reggan rode in the parade as family representatives. She was proud of her heritage and her grandsons, Kennan and Reggan, being the 5th generation of Elder blood to live on the farm section.

She was a strong believer in agriculture. Often Joann was a single voice of reason for agricultural advocacy in the midst of the chaotic population growth and development of Larimer County. Several newspaper articles featured Joann talking about drought, land and water use. Many local boards knew Joann's point view would be distinctive and powerful even before she spoke. Many times Joann said what others were afraid to say. Joann believed in individual rights and most particularly in private property rights. Joann could have written the Thoreau quote "If I am not I, who will I be?" Many of us know it was hard to hold your own, let alone win a verbal argument with Joann. She had her own set of convictions and expressed them with a no holds bar attitude. Joann was a rare individual. The current world seems to thrive and nurture people who follow the crowd and not raise a ruckus. Colleges put a high priority on teaching students to work cooperatively and to get along at all costs. We know Joann would not agree. In fact, she would raise a ruckus about people who acted like sheep following each other to their demise.

Thoreau may have had a Joann in mind when he wrote: "If man does not keep pace with his companions perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears however, measured or far away". Joann was indeed a different drummer. A Celebration of Life Service will be held Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at Bohlender Funeral Chapel. A Private Interment will be held at Grandview Cemetery.

# Tribute Wall

WM

“ Six years ago I came to this site but just didn't know what to write and when back a couple of times since I faced the same thing. My wife and I were good friends with JoAnn. I'm simply going say she is thought of often and she is missed. Everything that means will maybe come through to others, maybe not, but for me it's enough to have said it here finally.

To any of her family who happen to see this, our continued condolences.

Warren & Irene Morton

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**Warren Morton** - January 31, 2020 at 10:11 PM

CJ

“ Dear Laquitta, Mike and family, I'm very sorry for your loss. Sending you good thoughts of peace and serenity. My sincere condolences.  
Charlotte

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**Charlotte Jackson** - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Mike Laquitta, Kennan, and Reggan Since finding out that Mamma Jo was gone we have kept you in our thoughts and prayers. We have revisited memories of the Livermore Gymkhana, the white kitten from Mrs. Jones, Thanksgiving diner with the "special" parts set aside for Mamma Jo, and the humorous debates between Mamma Jo and Papa Pete. All reasons to smile for a lady who did it her way :

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**Ladelle and Jack West** - February 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *The passing of a person that I had a lot of respect for, and her ability to know what was happening in our area, the county, and the state.*

Del Black - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Mike - we were sorry to learn of the passing of your mother. She was a woman with an iron will and I'm sure she will be missed by you and your family. We will all miss her in the community.*

Jim & Jane Clark - January 31, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ *An inscription on Bette Davis' tombstone reads, "She did it the hard way." Like Davis, through all the devastating chapters, my grandma endured and has left a a great family legacy. I will miss her stories and the way she could make me laugh.*

Kennan Blehm - January 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ *Sorry! I was unable to attend the service this morning. But nevertheless wanted to express my condolences to the family. Joann was a very special person and friend. I met her through my parents Howard and Jane Holtzinger and became friends with her. Enjoyed visiting with her. Seeing her at the Wellington Reunions were special. She will be missed.*

Katherine Holtzinger Bridwell - January 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GK

“ *We are going to miss Joann. She was a very strong woman you had to get to know her to understand her. We enjoyed her very much. So sorry we can't be at her celebration of life.*

Gary and Elaine Knox - January 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PN

“ *What a life for your family to remember*

Phyllis Deines Norman - January 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

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Gary and Elaine Knox - January 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

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Gary and Elaine Knox - January 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Our deepest condolences to the Family*

Richard Seaworth and Family - January 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *Joann will be missed. I always enjoyed her commentary on everything and anything. She never minced words. Mike and Kevin--Sorry for your loss.*

Roger Sinden - January 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ *Galatians 2:20*

Frank Boxberger - January 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ I was sad to see of Joann's passing. I never met her face-to- face but talked to her on the phone many times about renting her water for the farm. I always enjoyed those conversations. She was honest and straight forward and demanded the same from me. I will miss her.

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**Dennis Wagner** - January 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Kevin and Mike : We were very sorry to hear of your mother's passing. We will be thinking of you and your families and wish the best for you always. Kind regards to you all.

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**Carl & Eloise Lee** - January 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ Galatians 2:20

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**Frank Boxberger** - January 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Joann was always a pleasure to visit with when I stopped at her house or when she called our office. She will be truly missed. Mom & I send our condolences to her family. Respectfully, Sharon Seaworth & Erna Daubert

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**Sharon Seaworth** - January 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Mike and Kevin, I am sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. Godspeed Joann.

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**John Stromberger** - January 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Dear Mike and Kevin, Your mother and I go way back from when we worked together at the telephone office and shared an apartment. What fun we had. She was truly one of a kind. I have not been in touch with her recently but thought about her a lot. Sorry I did not get to tell her goodbye.

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**Kate Stieben** - January 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Mike , Kevin and families We were so sorry to hear you have lost your Mother. A sad part of life. Our best to you. Larry & Joan Willford

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**Joan & Larry Willford** - January 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ I will always remember Joann as one feisty lady. Sorry for your loss.

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**Peggy Arevalos** - January 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ So very sorry for your loss, I pray God hold you so close you feel the beat of His heart!

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**Jodi Beard** - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Kevin and Mike I am thinking of you as you go through the process of honoring your mom. It is difficult to deal with the myriad of emotions and all that goes into end-of-life arrangements. Your mom was committed to her own path and was verbally bold. There is not another person in the world like her. You guys have already honored your mother with your lives. I will be thinking of you on Thursday as you celebrate a million memories!

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**Denise Baland Barr** - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PW

“Wow... So sorry to hear of her passing. She certainly was one in a million. She is an inspiration to those of us who are willing to speak our minds even though it may be unpopular. Our thoughts are with you all.

Paula Watson-Lakamp - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AS

“Our sympathies go out to you Mike & Kevin.

Annetta Gregory Saxerud - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JG

“God be with you.

joe Garcia - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LW

“Joann was truly a friend and we had a lot of laughs. I think of her during canning season and her fabulous home brewed coffee. It was the best. Rest In Peace Joann

linda wilson - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SD

“Sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Scott & Cheri Dent - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GS

“Mike & Kevin, Sorry to hear of the loss of your mom. My thoughts and prayers are with you both.

Greg Stieben - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Our prayers go to the family of a truly interesting and unique lady. I have some barb-wire and cream cans that make me think of her and outbidding her at auction. Didn't happen often. Will miss her.

Pat & Norma McGee - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GE

“ Joann's family Am so sorry to hear of her passing. Will keep you all in my prayers.

Gladys A. Ellerman - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ One HECK of a Lady!

Bo and Shari Morrison - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ So sorry for your loss. She certainly was a legend in her own time! May God's strength give you comfort and peace.

Robin Moreng - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Our hearts reach out to the family during this time of sorrow. We can only believe that Aunt Joann has entered a better place for eternity and that one day we will all join her and Uncle Tony.

Don & Jeanne Blehm - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ May your faith be a comfort to you all. She had the most amazing handwriting.

Joe & Stanlyn - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ You are in our thoughts & prayers

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**Charles Blehm** - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Mike & Kevin, My sincerest condolences on the loss of your Mother. She was indeed a strong woman and left her mark on the land. I have fond memories of spending summers working on her farm, which helped shape me, as I'm sure it helped shape you both. Your Mom was always kind to me and was very meticulous in how she cared for me. Her cooking was always top notch, and I always remember how she would iron all my clothes, even sheets. I also enjoyed when she would cut my hair out in the yard in the summers. I also have fond memories of going arrowhead hunting with her. I remember her tending her garden and taking such pride in it, and also how she would drive truck with us when it was harvest time. Your Mom was a real tower of strength for me at a time in my life when I needed it most. My thoughts and prayers go out to both you and your families. Mitch

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**Mitch Baland** - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ We are so sorry for your loss. May God and memories make this loss a little easier for you all.

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**Paul and Ronda** - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Sorry to hear about your loss. Joann was a person who stood tall for the things she thought were right.

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**Mark Macklin** - January 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *QUITE THE GAL*

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**herb and shirley** - January 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM