



Norma Jean McLane

May 13, 1930 - April 11, 2026

Norma Jean McLane, 95, of Ft. Collins, CO and formerly of Pecatonica, IL died under hospice care in Ft. Collins on April 11, 2026.

Mrs. McLane was born to Herman and Mattie Stratmann on May 13, 1930; the second youngest of six children. Due to the death of her mother, Norma, age 13 months, moved to live with her Aunt Mary and Uncle John Dieken. Hereinafter known as aunt/mother and uncle/dad; still maintaining contact with her birth family. She attended Pecatonica High School, graduating in 1948.

Upon graduation, she met and married William (Bill) McLane. They settled in Pecatonica, IL to raise three sons; as well as supporting her young sister in-law, Ruth, through her high school years. Norma was active in assisting the family with the farm and weekly sale barn operations. She, also, participated in the VFW Auxiliary, morning coffee meetings with neighbors and briefly operated her own restaurant. In 1973, the McLane's moved to Ft Collins, CO to be close to their sons. Norma worked in retail. She was employed at WalGreen's Grill before moving to Montgomery Wards; managing appliances and men's clothing. She retired in 1987.

Upon retirement, the McLane's toured the country in their motorhome visiting family and friends; continuing an old family reunion tradition. Upon Bill's death in 2007, the telephone and internet helped her stay in touch with everyone.

Norma was passionate about keeping family and friends close, believing that life was better surrounded by all; especially the little ones. With that said: there was always room for one more at the table.

She is survived by her sons Wayne (daughter Melissa Ruebush, son Dan Bittle), Joel and his Wife Sharon (daughter Shari Hanson-McLane, sons Christopher Hanson-McLane and Jacob),; Doug and his wife Chia (sons Kenneth, Michael and Andrew (AJ). Cousin/sister Deloris Hines. All in the Ft. Collins/Loveland area. Norma was blessed with fourteen great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

She is preceded in death by husband William (Bill), granddaughter Angela Wright, Sisters Verona, Marjorie, Harlina, brothers Herman (Bud), Myron (Mike) and cousin/brother Don.

Previous Events

Burial

APR **20**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Roselawn Cemetery
2718 E. Mulberry
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Tribute Wall

AR

“ I am very sad to hear about the passing of my old neighbor and friend Norma. I knew it was coming, but still hard to accept. My brother Lynn has covered a lot of what I was going to say, but I will just add to it. My Mother and Norma had coffee in the mornings together almost everyday. I can still see them at the kitchen table consuming a lot of coffee, and talking. This went on for years. Norma was always active. Worked at the lunch counter at the Pec Sale Barn every Wednesday when the sales took place. She ran not only the counter, but also the grill. I can remember when I was little going out to the Sale Barn on that day to see Norma. She was an active person, as the family went camping almost every weekend in the summer. There was a creek near our houses that froze over in the winter. All the neighborhood kids, and Norma would skate on it when ever we could. I can still see her out on that creek with all the kids around her. Norma opened a restaurant in Pecatonica when I was 14. She asked me, and one of the other neighborhood girls Colleen to be dishwashers. When Colleen, and I turned 16 we were able to waitress. I also learned how to cook on the grill from my cousin Mamie. I continued my cooking and waitress job until I graduated from High School. I learned a lot from Norma in those days especially how to treat customers. Her saying was, "The Customer is always right." I always like seeing her nieces Paula and Rita when they came to visit her. After they moved to Colorado I stayed in contact with he , even visiting them once in the winter months to go skiing. Stayed in contact with her over the years. The last two years tried to call her once a week. Sometimes we were real chatty, and be on the phone for over an hour. She loved to talk about growing up on the farm. The last six months or so, are conversations were a lot longer. I will miss talking to her. but I will be thinking of her always. I'm glad I still have contact with her sons. Norma the next time I'm in Pec I will stand on the bridge, and look at your house, and the creek, and think of you skating. Love, Always
Ann (Moist) Redding

Ann Redding - April 19 at 03:57 PM

LM

“ I have fond memories of Norma. Norma, Bill, Wayne, Joel & Doug lived just around the corner from us in Pecatonica. Norma and my mother were close friends often sharing coffee and stories at one house or another. As kids my sister Ann & I saw Norma often as we spent much time with Wayne, Joel & Doug often at each other's homes. Norma always seemed to be active and involved. The county fair time was especially busy with the hours she spent at VFW food stand, which was a very popular place to dine as the food was made on site and well above average. With that experience, her energy, and attention to detail Norma renovated an existing storefront, opening it as the Pecatonica House restaurant, a very popular dining spot. I always remember Norma as being kind, friendly, having a great smile and laugh, ready to help out if needed and being a great neighbor and friend to our family. My sincere condolences to Wayne, Joel, Doug and their families. Cherish memories of the wonderful times you spent together. They will ease the loss of your beloved mother.
Lynn Moist

Lynn Moist - April 16 at 11:50 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Bohlender Funeral Chapel - April 15 at 10:03 AM