



Shirley Roberta Rogers

June 7, 1926 - January 2, 2016

Shirley Roberta Sutton Rogers, 89, passed away January 2, 2016 at Fox Meadows Assisted Living, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Shirley was born on June 7, 1926, at the old Namaqua Hospital in Loveland, Colorado, to Harold Cecil Sutton and Georgia Edith Marie Birdsall Sutton. She attended grade school at the Big Thompson School west of Loveland. When she completed 7th grade, her family moved to Estes Park, where her father and mother owned and operated a produce stand and later built and operated a grocery store. Shirley and her two brothers worked in the store after school and during the summer. Business flourished as it was at a time when the Big Thompson Diversion Tunnel was being built.

After graduation from Estes Park High School in 1944, Shirley attended the University of Denver, where she majored in Business. She was dissatisfied with her major and planned to transfer to Colorado A&M to take up Interior Design after working for a year. However, plans changed when an Air Force officer she had known since childhood—Chester Lee Rogers—came to visit her and proposed. Shirley and her parents were visiting her paternal grandparents in Roseburg, Oregon, at the time. Both Shirley and Chet were very sure that they were meant to be life companions, so they were married right away without waiting for a big wedding at home.

Chet served in World War II in the Pacific Theater as a B24 navigator, while Shirley remained the faithful wife at home. Upon returning from war, Chet began to attend Colorado A&M College, but was called back into service.

Once Chet returned home for good, they pursued various jobs and occupations, before Chet returned to college to complete his Master's degree. They moved to Denver and spent five years there, working for the U.S. and State Departments of Agriculture. At that point, they purchased a farm in Waverly, Colorado, and moved out of the city to live in the country for the next 20 years, raising cattle, farming and dairying.

Over the years Shirley worked for various employers--Travelers Insurance, Colorado A&M Agronomy Department, Safeway, Forneys, and Neo Data. When they quit farming, they moved in to Fort Collins for a brief period and then to Wellington, where Shirley was the office manager for her husband, who was a United Farm Real Estate broker.

After losing her husband, Shirley continued to live in Wellington with her kitty and pal, "Edie Lee," until February 2015 when her health wouldn't allow her to live there any longer.

She is survived by her sons, Ben Rogers, (wife, Jo); Harold Sutton (wife, Tina); Charles Rogers (wife, Judy); daughter, Janna Ruck (husband, Ron); grandchildren, Richard, Lori, Anissa, Stacy, Austin (wife, Jen), A.J., Adam (wife, Amber), and Allison; great grandchildren, Kendall, Gage, Morgan, Tenley, and C.J.; brother, Roy Sutton; sister-in-law, Luella Sutton; and many cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Chester Lee Rogers; her brother, Harold Edwin Sutton; and her parents and grandparents.

Shirley was always busy with many activities, interests, and helping others. She was a member of the Laporte Presbyterian Church and a member/held various offices in the Daughters of the American Revolution, Farmers Union, Beta Sigma Phi Extension Club, and Disabled American Veterans. She also did volunteer work and served on the Executive Board of the Wellington Senior Center. She enjoyed decorating her home through the various seasons and holidays, painting, doing all kinds of crafts, helping with children's 4-H projects, and teaching Sunday school.

Even though her last year was a very trying time of pain, going through two hospital and rehab stays, moving from her long time home in Wellington to independent living, and then finally to assisted living, she continued to grasp onto life and touch the hearts of those around her. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

LI

“ Shirley was a very special person. I met her and Chet nearly 20 years ago when I started volunteering at the Senior Center, and she was a mentor showing me how to do the setup and serving, cleanup, etc., for meals at the Center. She and Chet had the most endearing smiles and laughter and made Wellington a better place. I marveled at the energy Shirley had even when pain made her life so difficult. And I admired her ability to keep everything and everyone around her going so flawlessly even when there were a few "rough edges". My sincere sympathy to all of her family. You've lost a treasure.

Linda Irwin

Linda Irwin - January 13, 2016 at 08:41 AM

CK

“ She was quite a lady. I remember her laugh when she got tickled about something, it always made me smile. She will be missed.

chris k. - January 11, 2016 at 08:51 AM

RS

“ Shirley was a very special lady. She was a very caring person, always busy working on various projects for the Senior Center or Church or any of her other interests. She was really very talented and crafty. She was instrumental in helping make a beautiful quilt and auctioning it off as a fund raiser for the Sen.Cent. She could decorate for a function, set a fine table and cook. She worked hard with other Seniors to make the Sen. Cent. successful. I knew Shirley for years and I will miss her very much. She was a good friend. I send my sincere sympathy to her family.

Ruth Spinden - January 10, 2016 at 12:29 AM

LR

“ *Lori Rogers purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Shirley Roberta Rogers.*



Lori Rogers - January 09, 2016 at 04:28 PM

SH

“ *my deepest sympathy goes out to the Rogers family. I got to meet Shirley back a few years ago when I was there visiting my brother Harold. She was a very sweet lady.*

Shelly Houk - January 08, 2016 at 03:00 PM

LK

“ *Our heartfelt sympathy to the Rogers family!!
Shirley's smile will surely be missed by all who knew her and loved her.
May God's grace be with you!
Lou & Linda Kinzli*

Linda Kinzli - January 08, 2016 at 01:50 PM

RS

“ My aunt Shirley was like a guardian angel to my dad (her brother Harold). One example was in December, 1950 when dad was working on a grain elevator in Coolidge, Kansas on the border with Colorado. The only job offer he got was the graveyard shift doing manual labor for \$1/hour on the jack crew. He found a rundown place to rent in nearby Holly, Colorado complete with bedbugs and cockroaches. He worked into the bitter winter during Christmas season, alone and miserable. He thought he was a failure. One cold December morning dad finished up another freezing night shift pouring concrete. He went home and fell asleep. Later that day, he awoke and, as he was shoveling snow out of his room that had blown through the cracks in the windows, he looked up and thought he was seeing two ghosts. They were actually his sister Shirley and her husband Chet Rogers who were traveling back from eastern Kansas. Shirley and Chet convinced dad to quit working as a slave laborer and follow them back to Estes Park with \$70 to his name. Shirley saved my dad from that wretched experience. She will be missed.

Ron Sutton

Ron Sutton - January 07, 2016 at 05:34 PM

RR

I APPRECIATED THIS STORY MORE THAN YOU KNOW, RON, THANK YOU FOR SHARING IT, THAT IS JUST THE WAY SHE WAS, AND DAD AS WELL, ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR OTHERS.

ROY "BEN" ROGERS - January 08, 2016 at 09:57 AM

JR

Thanks cousin Ron I never knew that story. I am so proud of my parent's habit of helping others. I miss her so much I can't believe it. I miss them both, but am glad they are together again.

Janna Ruck - January 13, 2016 at 01:35 AM

BM

“ I'll always remember how active Shirley was. I enjoyed the times I've had at a few family dinners at Tina's home talking to Shirley. I'm sure she's making friends in heaven already.

Barb McMillen - January 07, 2016 at 03:40 PM

SH

“ Shirley will always be remembered in our family as inviting our young sons to her home some years ago at Christmas time to bake and decorate Christmas Cookies. She had a very organized set up for the children that day for them to put lots and lots of décor and sprinkles on the cookies. She had Christmas music playing and made it so fun for the kids that we all had a hard time leaving her home.

She was always so easy to talk with and made each one of us feel like a good friend.

She lived her life as an enduring and persevering Mother and Grandmother/Great Grandmother to all her wonderful Family.

It was a pleasure to know Shirley.

Looking forward to seeing you Shirley in the Everlasting.

Sharon Muirhead

Sharon - January 07, 2016 at 01:17 PM

TE

“ Shirley was a very kind person. She always saw the good in everything. We will all miss you Shirley. There is comfort knowing that you are at peace, and that you are sharing eternity with your true love Chet. Love and prayers to all of Shirley's family, knowing her presence will be greatly missed by all of you.

Terrie & Di

Terrie - January 07, 2016 at 11:33 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Bohlender Funeral Chapel - January 06, 2016 at 04:00 PM