



Helen L. Van Houten

May 14, 1918 - January 30, 2022

Helen Lois Van Houten, 103, of Wenatchee, died January 30, 2022. She was born in Billings, Montana, May 14, 1918 to Elbert and Grace Belle Lydia Milam. She was destined to live a long and colorful life.

Her early years were spent on a wheat and cattle ranch. Trips to town would have been on a horse-drawn wagon and her grade school education was in a one-room schoolhouse. Helen's experiences with her brothers and sisters included family sustaining raising of food and preparation for long, cold winters.

Helen met her husband Jay, at a community dance and married him on July 17, 1938. They established their own ranch on the Yellowstone River near Huntly, Montana. She canned, crocheted, sewed clothing on a Singer Treadle sewing machine and filled the root cellar from produce raised in the garden.

Daughter, Jean Belle was born in 1939 and son, Roger, in 1947. Years before and after electricity, they embraced raising chickens, cattle, alfalfa, oats and barley.

Wildlife enhanced their everyday life; coyotes, deer, timber wolves, bobcats, skunks and a prairie dog town. Her children agreed she was an expert at cooking wild meat and baking bread. A niece was heard to say, "When I get

married, I want Aunt Helen's dinner rolls instead of a wedding cake."

Helen and Jay were proprietors of a hotel and restaurant in Hysham, MT for 2 years which prepared them for the move to Wenatchee in 1959. They became managers of the Hawthorne Court Apartments.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jay in 1991.

Survivors include: Daughter, Jean of Bertrum, Texas; Son, Roger of Wenatchee and many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great and great-great grandchildren; a legacy of a century.

A family gathering and Celebration of Life will be planned at a later date.

Arrangements assisted by Chapel of the Valley, East Wenatchee.