



Janice L. Fern

November 16, 2016 - November 16, 2016

Janice L. Fern, 87, Kearney, died November 16, 2016 at the Mother Hull Home in Kearney. Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 22, 2016, at First United Methodist Church with Rev. Melody Adams officiating with burial to follow at White Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Monday, November 21, 2016 at Horner Lieske McBride and Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services and one hour prior to the service at the church. In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to White Hill Cemetery Association, First United Methodist Church, or Trails and Rails Museum.

Janice Lucille English was born in 1928 in a stone house on her father's farm located northeast of Sumner. She was the only child of Rudolph and Ethel (Rash) English. Jan lived on the farm and attended the Victor Hills one-room school house through the second grade. After her parents' divorce, Jan lived for a year in Omaha with her Aunt Bea, Uncle Harry and Cousin Jean. In 1938 Jan was put on the Challenger train and arrived in Kearney to live with her mother, stepfather and new half-brother. She attended Kearney schools until her graduation in 1946. During high school and after graduation, she worked at Jack's Grocery Store until veterans began returning to Kearney. One of those men was a handsome guy who worked in the store training as a meat cutter. Jan and LaMoyne Fern were married in 1946 in Oberlin, Kansas, one day before her 18th birthday, the legal age for marriage. Despite this questionable start, they missed celebrating 70 years together by only a few weeks. Jan was devoted to taking care of her husband and her children, Julie,

John and Jeff. She became involved in the Park School PTA, served as president and became a life member. As the children grew older, she began working outside the home. She and LaMoyne operated the A&W Drive In from 1963 to 1969 and later the Tastee Freeze near the college campus. In 1972 Jan began working for Roger Pollat at the Cowpoke on East 25th Street. She knew little about western wear but soon became an excellent salesperson and manager. In 1983 Jan and LaMoyne purchased the store which was later moved to downtown Central Avenue. Jan joined the Kearney Centre Merchants Association and in 1992 she recruited LaMoyne to be the Santa children could visit in the gingerbread house on Central Avenue. She was his dedicated assistant, washing Santa's white gloves after every appearance and counting candy canes to determine the number of daily visitors. Santa LaMoyne and Jan served more than 12,000 children from 1992 to 2005. Jan and LaMoyne were adventuresome and enjoyed traveling. They visited her sister and her husband in Egypt, England, Indonesia, Bali and Hong Kong. They also took many trips sponsored by the travel clubs at Kearney banks and visited Mexico, Germany, Norway, Switzerland and Australia. One of her dreams was to see the Eiffel Tower and she rode the elevator to the top in 2005. Jan's family will remember her for her fabulous cooking. When she prepared a meal there was always plenty of food. Her cucumbers and onions, (scored and then sliced in the palm of her hand), biscuits and gravy, broccoli casserole with cheese and rice, rhubarb and pineapple pie, potato salad and crispy hash brown potatoes were family favorites. The best Christmas gift was always a jar of fresh-canned pickles, tomato juice, home-made salsa or meal-size bags of frozen corn. One of the early signs of Jan's dementia was when she served a meal and the bowls were empty and could not be passed twice. Jan was a member of the United Methodist Church for more than sixty years. She and LaMoyne attended the Together Sunday School Class, were regular Sunday morning greeters, counted the weekly offering, and as part of the UMW, Jan regularly organized and served funeral dinners. In 1996 Jan and LaMoyne renewed their wedding vows at the church altar and joked that they

were thereafter officially married. During the seventy plus years Jan lived in Kearney she served many organizations including Beta Sigma Phi, Buffalo County election Board, Central Nebraska Auto Club, Hallmark Keepsake Ornament club, Kearney Centre Merchants Association and the VFW Ladies' Auxiliary. She also served on the board of Trails and Rails and donated her cookbook collection (more than 1000 volumes) to the organization in 2008. Jan always nourished and supported her family. She was the "silent partner" for LaMoyne during the 20 years he spent restoring the 1922 American LaFrance firetruck. She attended nearly every race during John's race car years. She cheered her son Jeff during his high school wrestling days and later was by his side in the aftermath of the 1980 Grand Island tornado. Jan supported and encouraged Julie as she completed her college education. Throughout her life, Jan quietly demonstrated the characteristics of hard work, caring and service that exemplify Kearney and Nebraska values. Janice is survived by her; daughter Julie Thatcher and husband Fred of Overland Park, KS; son John Fern and wife Janis of Glenvil, NE, daughter-in-law Barb Fern of Grand Island, NE; five grandchildren, eight great grandchildren; half-sister's, Ardyth "Pinki" Herrick and her husband Ike of Lakeway, TX, Shirley Scoville and husband Neil of Kansas City, MO. Janice was preceded in death by her husband LaMoyne, son Jeff, half-sister Audrae Shirley, and half-brother Jerry Robinson.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Janice L. Fern*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this sad time.
Cherish the memories and know that you will all be together again,
one day. God Bless You All.*

Merlin & Linda Dilley - November 18, 2016 at 12:00 AM