

Verda Cloe Nelson Jensen



Verda Cloe Nelson Jensen (85) passed away peacefully in her home on Friday, July 15, 2011.

She was born on June 23, 1926 as the 5th of seven children to John Alexander Nelson and Vera Wilcox Nelson in Cascade, Montana. The family moved to Great Falls, Montana, where Verda graduated from school on D-day, June 6, 1944. Verda attended Utah State Agricultural College in Logan, Utah for one year. She met her sweetheart Leon James Jensen on a blind date to a Stake Gold and Green Ball. He had recently returned from 3 ½ years in the U.S. Air Force in the Central Pacific during World War II. They were married in the Cardston Alberta Temple on July 31, 1946 and celebrated 61 years together before Leon's passing in 2007.

Verda and Leon are survived by their children: Carol Lasson (Richard), Lana Jardine (Stan), Julie Larsen (Robert), Leon James, Jr. "Jim" Jensen (Sandy), Joyce Morgan (Jim), and David John Jensen (fiancee—Tracy Thomas). They have 24 grandchildren and 47 great grandchildren.

After Verda's children started school, she attended the University of Utah and in 1969 at age 43, she graduated with a B. S. degree from the U of U. For 19 years, she loved teaching at Rosecrest Elementary School in Granite District. She retired in 1988.

Verda was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served in many callings including: Relief Society President in Mt. Olympus 7th Ward and again at age 72 in the Draper 2nd Ward, Draper, Utah, two service missions—one to the LDS Church Museum and another as a genealogist in the Genealogy Library, and as an ordinance worker in the Draper LDS Temple.

She wrote three family history books: *Heritage and Histories of John Alexander Nelson, Jr. and Vera Wilcox Nelson*, *Heritage and Histories of Victor James and Alice James Jensen*, and *Memories of Leon and Verda Jensen*.

She traveled the world with Leon, visiting: Russia, China, Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand, etc. and later with her children to China and Mongolia. Her favorites were Hawaii and Mongolia.

She was a member of the Utah Retired School Employees Association, on the Board of Draper City's Visual Arts Foundation, and a member of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Douglas Camp.

Verda loved entertaining her family and friends both in her home and in the family cabin in Big Cottonwood Canyon. She loved serving friends and family and unconditionally loved everyone. She was one of the noble and great—a choice daughter of her Father in Heaven. Her treasures were her family, her friends, and her testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her dear husband Leon, and by siblings—Lovell Nelson, Bruce Nelson (Ruth), Lee Nelson, Joyce McMaster (Earl) and daughter-in-law Lorrie Jensen. Survived by sister Ruth Miller (Ivan), brother Robert Nelson (Missy), sisters-in-law Margaret Nelson and Vicky Nelson.

Thank you to Dr. R. Dirk Noyes and the Millcreek Hospice Center—especially Christie and Juan.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, July 20, 2011 at 12:00 noon at the Draper 2nd Ward, 1617 E. 12700 S. Draper, UT. Viewings will be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Larkin Sunset Gardens Mortuary, 1950 East 10600 South, Sandy, UT and from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. before the funeral at Draper 2nd Ward.

Please share a memory of Verda at www.larkincares.com.



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Calm, always a rectangular smile, loving, careful with her diction and elocution, impeccably dressed, hair always in place=Verda Jensen.

One day, while in my carport, I was getting ready to go be with my husband while he had a foreboding heart bypass. I looked out to the street as a little red car stopped at the end of the driveway, and lovely Verda stepped out. She had just picked up deraperies for one of the units she and Leon rented.

She just came up to me and merely said, "I need to give you a hug." NOTHING in the world could have helped me more at that moment!

She supported Leon as he served in the SUP

Board. She made many clever wine-colored vests for the men AND women. They were beautifully made, and lasted years and years.

What a great Relief Society President she was! She conducted the meetings with great aiplomb and they never ran over. When she TAUGHT Relief Society, she always had a wonderful musical number sung by one of the mmembers of the ward. The songs were appropriate to sing with the subject she taught.

These are just a few peeks into the life of a noble woman who blessed my life. I am much better having known Verda Jensen, a woman I dearly loved.

May the famiy know of my love for them, and may this little vignette give you comfort that you always were in the presence of greatness when you were with her.

With sincere love, respect, and admiration for Verda,

Janet Trowbridge

— Janet Trow bridge

My first memory of Verda (May 1997) was when I moved into Willow Bend. I went to my mailbox to check to see if my key worked...and...I had mail. Yes, a beautiful card from Verda expressing her condolences for the recent loss of my husband (I didn't know anyone knew except Bishop Richins) and also welcoming me to the neighborhood. My tears that night were of thankfulness for what was to become a beautiful friendship. I also remember her generous contribution of money she gave me to give my son last Dec. (2009) after the death of his son, my grandson. What an awesome woman. Thank you for sharing her with Willow Bend. I love her and also her family.

— Lois Madsen