



Ethelyn Pearson

March 15, 1921 - December 11, 2020

The Celebration of Life memorial service for Ethelyn Pearson, of Clarissa and formerly of Wadena, will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 19, at the Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena. A gathering of family and friends will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will continue until the time of the service.

Ethelyn A. Pearson, age 99 years 9 months, passed away from Covid-19 at the Clarissa Nursing home on December 11, 2020. Ethelyn was born March 15, 1921 in Hewitt, Minnesota to Russell and Alice (Gossell) Linnell. She lived all her school age years in the Hewitt, Minnesota area. She had one sibling; Billie Scott of Moscow, Idaho. In 5-21-1939, Ethelyn married Milton R. Pearson, a farmer and the couple had 3 children, Larry, Arlen and Linda. During the war years, the family lived in California where Milt worked in the Northrup Aircraft Plant and Ethelyn raised the family. In 1946 when the war ended, they moved back to Minnesota and bought the family farm in Wadena, which Milt's dad Sigverd Pearson had homesteaded, where they farmed and raised their family.

In 1966-1968, when their children were all in college, Ethelyn co-managed the St. Cloud Roller Rink with Milt. She and Milt, known as Mom and Pop, joined their young clientele on the skate floor and danced in their skates along with the kids. She then worked as Activities Director of Shady Lane Nursing Home under Nursing Home Director Mike Gibson. She had always loved the elderly

and served in this capacity with love, humor, music and activities that improved the overall wellbeing of so many older citizens in the Wadena area.

She had also been interested in writing, a passion that she pursued while raising her family. She began that career on a manual typewriter, progressed to an electric typewriter and then taught herself how to use the computer (her Mac). Over the years, she published over 700 articles in 59 different magazines and 2 books, "It Really Happened Here" and "It Really Happened Here & There." She also wrote a weekly newspaper article in the Wadena Pioneer Journal for several years mainly about people in the Wadena Area.

When Milt went to Shady Lane Nursing Home suffering with Parkinson's Disease, Ethelyn sold the farm and moved to an apartment in Wadena for about 10 years, then to Fair Oaks Assisted Living in Wadena and finally in 12-2015 to the Clarissa Nursing Home where she received excellent care up to and including at the time of her death.

Ethelyn loved all people and had a variety of interests. She had a great love for music and played piano and guitar. She, her sister and 2 cousins were raised playing and singing for benefits all around the area. As an adult, she was a member of several clubs and did volunteer work for many organizations over the years. She volunteered at her church, the Wadena Methodist Church, as a Sunday School Teacher and also wrote the history of the Methodist Church for their centennial. She served as an advocate for battered women and children at the Wadena Crisis Center for several years. She belonged to the Library Club as she had a great love for books, the Hewitt Historical Society and Hewitt Museum as she had a great love for history, especially history of the Hewitt and Wadena area. She also belonged to the Garden Club which kept up the flower gardens at Shady Lane Nursing Home, and the Writer's Club with some of her literary friends.

Ethelyn loved all animals of any size or shape and over the years was caregiver to 1 or 2 pets at all times, some very unusual. She found great comfort from Bobby, the resident cat at the Clarissa Nursing Home who curled up on her bed many nights. There was Skipper, their family dog for many years that traveled with the family to California and back; Windsor named after the Duke of Windsor, a toad that she carried on her shoulder and gave "Show & Tell" talks to school-age kids in the Wadena area and Buddy Boy, a Love Bird, who lived with her at Fair Oaks and surprised her by laying 5 eggs. She thought he was a boy, thus the name. There were also many cats and dogs on the farm over the years and always an aquarium full of brightly colored fish.

There were many memorable moments in Ethelyn's life; her 50th wedding celebration with her family and friends, her surprise 90th birthday celebration at Fair Oaks in Wadena with her sister (3 years younger) flying in from Moscow, Idaho, and also riding in the Wadena parade as Grand Marshal. Attending her children's, grandchildren's and great grandchildren's graduations were also memorable as education and getting good jobs was so important to her. She and Milt took a trip to the Oregon coast for their oldest grandson's college graduation for his doctor's degree in Optometry which was definitely a memorable moment. Also, another grandson graduated in Colorado who received his doctor's degree in statistics, another memorable event. She was looking forward to celebrating her 100th birthday and had requested that she have a BIG party with music for friends and relatives all to attend on March 15th.

She dearly loved her family, attended all educational, sporting or musical events for all of us and, as our mother, taught us strong morals and religious beliefs, belief in higher education and strong work ethics so as to make the world a better place. And, because of her strong belief in family history and her great ability for storytelling, both written and verbal, we all have a wealth

of information about our ancestors and extended family.

Ethelyn was preceded in death by her husband (Milt) in 1999 at the age of 82, her son-in-law (Don), her grandson (Jay), her great grandson (Blake) and great granddaughter (Jordan), her mother (Alice), and her dad (Russell Linnell), her step-father (Grover Young) and her sister (Billie).

She is survived by her children; Larry (Pat), Arlen (Norma) and Linda; 8 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. She loved us all and will be deeply missed by the entire family.

Cemetery Details

Wadena Cemetery

Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Previous Events

Gathering of Family & Friends

JUN 19. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3632

Memorial Service

JUN 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3632

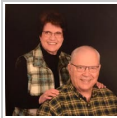
Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Ethelyn Pearson*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - December 23, 2020 at 03:14 PM



Loved what you did with the pictures on the video. Pat and Larry Pearson

Patricia Pearson - January 01, 2021 at 01:14 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ethelyn Pearson.*



June 11, 2021 at 06:28 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ethelyn Pearson.*



June 08, 2021 at 01:42 PM

JR

“ *The last time I visited Ethlyn I asked how old she was. She said 94. I asked when she was born and then I said well that makes you 98. Really. I had no idea. A few minutes later as I was getting ready to back to Arizona, I asked her old she was, 94 was the answer. I will miss her. My mom and Ethlyn were the best of friends. My mom was in Knute Nelson in Alexandria. Every Mother’s Day or her birthday or any special occasion she would be there. I will miss her.*

Jim Ross, Pats brother.

jim ross - January 06, 2021 at 06:55 PM

LB

“ *Linda Brown-Gasparrini lit a candle in memory of Ethelyn Pearson*



Linda Brown-Gasparrini - January 06, 2021 at 09:25 AM

LB

“ *Linda Brown-Gasparrini lit a candle in memory of Ethelyn Pearson*



Linda Brown-Gasparrini - January 06, 2021 at 09:20 AM

RG

“ Roland & Ginger Gilbert lit a candle in memory of Ethelyn Pearson



Roland & Ginger Gilbert - December 23, 2020 at 11:06 AM

SS

“ Linda, we are sorry for your loss, thinking about you during this tough time. Prayers and hugs for you. 🙏🙏💕

Sandy \$ Ray South - December 22, 2020 at 07:52 PM



“ 49 files added to the album Life Tributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - December 22, 2020 at 02:10 PM

DM

“ Dear family of Ethelyn,
Probably one of the most interesting "elderly " (in age only) patients I've ever met. She always had new information to share. One I especially remember was about toads. Who knew? They come toward the light (frogs hop away), they interact with humans (as a pet on her shoulder) & can live a fairly long life. May you find comfort in God's care & hope in the resurrection. We are grateful for a life shared.

Most sincerely,
Donna Moenck (retired nurse from WMC)

Donna Moenck - December 21, 2020 at 10:09 PM

TL

“ Teri Larson lit a candle in memory of Ethelyn Pearson



Teri Larson - December 21, 2020 at 09:16 AM

SB

“ Sylvia Bessler lit a candle in memory of Ethelyn Pearson



Sylvia Bessler - December 19, 2020 at 12:06 PM



“ Gladys Chase lit a candle in memory of Ethelyn Pearson



Gladys Chase - December 19, 2020 at 09:25 AM

AM

“ Ardy Martinson lit a candle in memory of Ethelyn Pearson



Ardy Martinson - December 18, 2020 at 06:43 PM

TA

Ethelyn was a good friend of my Mom and Dads -Gordy and Geri Askew and when they moved into Fair Oaks a good source of conversation and company. She often came to visit and took pictures of nature and wrote a couple articles about Mom and Dad. She was always positive and a bright light in their life. I send my prayers and good memories to all the family. Love, Teresa Askew - youngest daughter

Teresa Askew - December 31, 2020 at 02:54 PM

BP

“ Ethelyn was the best story teller. She had a love to share with all and will be dearly missed. Barry & Sandi Pratt



Barry & Sandi Pratt - December 18, 2020 at 01:43 PM

JB

“ *Joan Brauch lit a candle in memory of Ethelyn Pearson*



Joan Brauch - December 17, 2020 at 08:04 PM

SV

“ *Sharon Veden lit a candle in memory of Ethelyn Pearson*



Sharon Veden - December 17, 2020 at 11:59 AM

HA

“ *Ethelyn was so full of life and a wonderful person. I enjoyed when they used to come in to The Uptown Cafe to eat and we would visit. She wrote interesting stories for the Wadena Pioneer Journal and that was one of the first things I looked for when I got my paper. She was such a wonderful writer and I loved everything she wrote. I once read about her younger life and struggles and it was so interesting to read about her life. So sorry that we lost such a great person, but bet she is looking down at us and cheering us on.*



Helen Allee - December 16, 2020 at 12:00 PM

PS

“ *Paul Sailer lit a candle in memory of Ethelyn Pearson*



Paul Sailer - December 15, 2020 at 05:43 PM



“ *Condolence Snacks was purchased for the family of Ethelyn Pearson.*



December 15, 2020 at 10:54 AM

PP

“ *She was a hero of mine. Ethelyn saw the truth in everything. This allowed her to enjoy people for who they really were. There was no fooling her, and no second guessing yourself. Who you were was good enough for Ethelyn. The world is a far less interesting place without her. God bless*

Pete Phillips - December 15, 2020 at 01:05 AM

JS

“ *Jill Stevens-Becker lit a candle in memory of Ethelyn Pearson*



Jill Stevens-Becker - December 14, 2020 at 08:48 PM

RJ

“ *Ethelyn was quite a lady. I knew her when she was active reporting events for Shady Lane (Fair Oaks) nursing home. She enjoyed the older people and spent many hours visiting them. Rest in peace, Ethelyn.* ”

Rose Johnson - December 14, 2020 at 03:16 PM

BB

“ *Barb Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Ethelyn Pearson* ”



Barb Brown - December 13, 2020 at 08:30 PM

SS

“ *I knew her when she lived in Verndale and would have lunch with her now and then in Wadena when I would see her "out and about". She was an outstanding woman and such a pleasure to speak to. Charming and wonderful and special. God blessed her in many ways.* ”



sally siegler - December 13, 2020 at 03:55 PM

DG

“ *Will always remember Ethelyn for her spunk, curiosity and creativity. She made the best of her long life.* ”

Dee Goerge - December 13, 2020 at 08:33 AM

RA

“ *Rita Anderson lit a candle in memory of Ethelyn Pearson*



Rita Anderson - December 12, 2020 at 08:59 PM

JJ

“ *Jon & Patty Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ethelyn Pearson*



Jon & Patty Johnson - December 12, 2020 at 06:53 PM

JK

I chuckled when I read at the beginning how Ethelyn did not know how old she was.....that is what I was told when I first met her in the fall of 2019. So we went and figured and came up with 1921 also. That meant she was born about a year and a half before my mother in Bemidji. I met Ethelyn when I wanted to have someone to visit at the Care Center when I moved to Clarissa in 2019. Because of our mutual interest in history, books, education and people in general, I was introduced to her and totally enjoyed our visits!! When another visitor happened in one day we were so loud and boisterous that I thought we would be kicked out or shut down. She did get me "kicked out" of the parking lot last summer when that was the designated visiting spot. Seriously! : <) She did not want to see me sit in the sun instead of under the umbrella with her. I was ok....but she kept moving toward me and we were getting too close. A nurse came out and warned that I would have to go if we did not sit correctly. Nice and professional as the nurse was, Ethelyn would have nothing to do with that, insisting that she was paying rent, etc. It was really humorous but not long-lived. Two staff came out, with smiles even, and told me I would have to leave now. I was compliant and later found out she got over it! We then did a few visits from a window in the library and I sent her a few cards and maybe some candy. I was SO looking forward to warm weather at least so we could get back to visiting and stories. I just learned coincidently last week that she had passed. It was not in the Clarissa paper, to which I subscribe. Add me to the gonna miss that gal list. My thoughts and condolences are with her loved ones.

Judy Kovarik - January 18, 2021 at 04:38 PM

RP

This is really neat to hear. (her grandson Bob)

Robert Pearson - January 19, 2021 at 04:32 PM

PP

Thank you for your kind words. I feel so bad that her whole last year from March on that our visits with her were only through an open window talking through the screen. We had to quit those visits in October as it just got too cold for her. We then went to the phone and i-pad which was a little harder for her. No hugs which she so loved with all of us. We definitely are missing her. Pat and Larry Pearson (Her eldest son and wife.)

Pat Pearson - June 16, 2021 at 08:03 PM

LB

Judy, Mom loved your visits & cards. It is truly appreciated the time you spent with her. That last year of isolation was terrible!! I felt so sorry for her & all the residents. I was hoping she would avoid getting the covid. It proved to be more than she could overcome. Mom thought you were a wonderful friend & valued your friendship. She is missed by many. Thanks for the condolences.

Linda Bokinskie - June 17, 2021 at 06:06 PM