



## Jean Kleen

April 18, 1932 - July 3, 2011

Funeral services for Jean Kleen of Bertha were held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 7, 2011 at the New Life Church of God in Bertha with Pastor Mark Brown presiding. Jean passed away at Fair Oaks Lodge in Wadena, MN on July 3, 2011 at the age of 79. The granddaughter of Norwegian immigrants, Jean Ann Coles was born to James and Lillian Coles in Minneapolis on April 18, 1932. She grew up in Minneapolis where she graduated from Washburn High School. She loved animals, especially horses. In her youth, she kept her horse, Poker, at a stable which was located at the present site of Southdale Shopping Center in Bloomington. Jean worked for the Air Force Exchange Service at Wold Chamberlain Field, where she met her future husband, Roland "Bud" Kleen, through mutual acquaintances. Bud and Jean were married in 1957 and lived in Winona, Alexandria, and Richfield until 1971, when they moved to Bertha. Jean was a longtime member of the Church of God, where she made many friends over the years. The first person she met in Bertha was Hazel Daniels; a meeting that made a long impression on her about the quality of people and life in Bertha. Jean was active with the Legion Auxiliary. She was awarded the Outstanding Layperson in Education Award in 1989 for her volunteer work in the Bertha-Hewitt School District. She was also a longtime supporter of the Bertha-Hewitt Marching Band, assisting with fundraising for many years, along with being a charter member of the Bertha-Hewitt Dollars For Scholars. Jean was a member of the Minneapolis Choralaires, a nationally known singing group in the mid 1950's that

performed nationally and internationally. A lifelong pianist, she loved music and attended live performances whenever she could, including Nat King Cole, Itzhak Perlman, Johnny Cash, Barry Manilow, and Yes. One of her favorite pastimes was camping at one of Minnesota's many beautiful State Parks, especially along the North Shore of Lake Superior. Having her grandchildren along with her was a bonus. Jean was preceded in death by her husband Roland "Bud"; her parents James and Lillian; and a sister Lois. She is survived by her loving children Gary (Kathy) of Bertha, Barb (Steve) Weishair of Eagle Bend, and James of Pooler, GA; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Honorary pallbearers were the Church of God Women and the Bertha American Legion Auxiliary. Pallbearers were Greg Kleen, Stan Nelson, Galen Schultz, Ken Nelson, Ron Ward and Wayne Voge. Burial was in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery at Camp Ripley.

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ Our condolences to our cousins during this time of sorrow. No one ever wants to say goodbye to a parent, but at the same time we know Aunt Jean is with the Lord now. You are in our prayers. Much love to all,  
Cliff & Vicky

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**Cliff & Vicky Brown** - July 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ My prayers go out to the Kleen family. Jean was such a nice lady. She always greeted me when she saw me. I know the last few years have been very hard on the family. She is at peace and with Bud.  
Love Jean and David hummel

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**Jean (Gorghuber) Hummel** - July 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Gary, you and I go way back to the 2nd grade in Richfield. I have known you a long time. Want you to know that Keith and I are thinking of you, Kathy and family during this time. I too have lost both my parents and I know what that feels like. If there is anything I can do please do not hesitate to ask. It must be a comfort to know your parents are together again. Prayers of peace and comfort are being sent your way and thoughts are with you. God Bless! Julie

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**Julie Skolte** - July 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ My parents John H. Peters and Joyce Sorenson Peters were members of the Minneapolis Choralaires in the mid-1950's. My father was one of the founding members along with Bob Mantzke. My father recently passed away and I have been on the internet looking his history up when I found Jean Kleens Obituary. My condolences to your family for your loss.

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**Malcolm Peters** - July 03, 2011 at 12:00 AM