

Betty Jean Judson Dower

August 21, 1924 - October 9, 2016

Betty Jean Judson was born in Casper on Aug. 21, 1924 to Elza and Bertha Judson. In the early years the family lived in Orpha. Later the family moved to Torrington, and Betty graduated from Torrington High School in 1941. She then attended Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa, for two years. Betty taught school in Wheatland for several years.



On June 2, 1946, Betty married Bud Dower. That fall the couple moved to Ft. Collins, Colo., where they took classes to aid them in the greenhouse business. They then returned to Wheatland and opened a greenhouse and flower shop with Bud's mother, Garnet. It later became Dower's Flower and Gifts in downtown Wheatland.

In 1955, Betty returned to teaching at Libbey Elementary School in Wheatland. Back then you could teach without a degree, but the state said that everyone had to have a degree by 1959. Betty and her sister Allene attended summer school in Laramie and took correspondence classes, both finishing the summer of 1959. Betty did this while working in the flower shop, keeping the books and raising three children. She quit teaching in 1973 to devote herself fulltime to the flower and gift shop. Later their son Kim and his wife joined them in the business and they expanded into the building next door selling not just flowers and gifts, but children's clothing, business supplies and a pharmacy. Dower's was one of the marquee stores in downtown Wheatland but it was the victim of an arsonist in 1987 and burned to the ground. Dower's had been a part of Wheatland for 41 years.

The Dower's also had a mobile home park

in front of their house on 16th Street, Latchstring Park. When the Power Plant was coming to Wheatland, they built another park, Parklane Village, on the north end of town with Betty's Sister and husband, Allene and Ed Mers. Both parks are still there today.

Betty was very active in civic and school organizations, as well as her church. She always participated in her children's clubs, sports and activities as much as her busy schedule allowed. She always encouraged them to participate in sport and music activities. The family was very important to Betty. Most holidays were spent with her siblings and their families as well as her parents. She and Bud spent countless hours helping to build their church's camp, Camp Paradise, on Laramie Peak.

In 2003 Betty and Bud moved to Denver to be near their children.

Her parents, E.C. and Bertha Judson preceded her in death as well as brothers, Dean and Al, and sister, Allene. Her beloved Bud died in 2005.

She is survived by her three children: Jeanne and husband, David Cockcroft of California, Steve and wife Acacia of Centennial, CO. Kim of Conifer, CO, 8 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and 5 step great grandchildren.

Betty's Funeral Services will be Friday, Oct. 14, at 10 a.m. at the Community of Christ Church at 1695 E. Orchard Rd. in Greenwood Village, Colo., 80121.

Graveside services will be at the Wheatland, WY Cemetery at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15.