



Bernice Lorene Penney

January 23, 2019

Bernice Lorene Penney passed away on January 23, 2019. Born during the depression, she felt lucky to have lived through an amazing time with all of its changes, challenges and opportunities. She was born to Marie Roberts and Clark Raymond Redfield in Scottsbluff County, Nebraska, December 4, 1931. She graduated from high school in Evanston, WY, attended the University of Wyoming and taught elementary school in Superior, WY prior to her marriage to Millard Penney in 1955 in Evanston.

In 1974, Bernice received a B.A. from Metropolitan State College and worked for 16 years. In 1985 the couple joined the Peace Corps and spent two years teaching school in a remote province in the Solomon Islands. Later they spent five winters as volunteers at the Hidden Lake Outdoor Education program in Everglades National Park. During these years they traveled to many countries and all continents except Antarctica.

The Penneys retired in Fort Collins, CO in 1994 where Bernice was active in the Fort Collins Women's Chorus, Newcomers Groups, PEO, First United Methodist Church, and the Master Naturalist Program for the city. Bernice treasured her family and friends, music, laughter, good books, nature and loved new challenges.

Survivors include her sister, Louise Redfield Skyles, daughter, Mary and Ray Hanson of Fort Collins, son Michael and Valerie Millar Penney of Arlington, VA and granddaughters Sarah and Rachel Penney.

Private family services will be held later. A memorial bench stands in the Penney family plot in Hokes Bluff, AL. In lieu of flowers or donations, please give to the ones you love, let them know you love them and try to make the most of every moment of every day in this wonderful world.

Comments



“ Mike, Val, Sarah, Rachel, Mary and Ray. Your mom was special! She was so nice. Your folks were always huge supporters of me. A loss for us but now she and Millard are back together. Our sincere condolences. Mike & Laurel Allen

Mike Allen - January 27, 2019 at 11:36 AM



“ Some of my favorite family memories took place at the Penney house. We would gather there with the Brunners, and Redfields at Thanksgiving for great food and fun as a family. Bernice always welcomed us to spend time or just stop by on the way somewhere.

One of my favorite memories was when Bernice picked me up at Stapleton airport in May of 1969, on my way to Argentina. We met Millard downtown and went to a pancake house for lunch.

The Penney house was always a welcome place to visit. Bernice and millard were closer than an aunt and uncle to me. We loved them so much and will miss them as will everyone who knew them.

Bob Skyles - January 27, 2019 at 10:44 AM



“ Mrs. Penney was among the few genuinely sweet people I have known. Her son Mike was my freshman roommate at the University of Wyoming, and he and I frequently made the two-hour drive to his boyhood home in Broomfield Colo., to spend a night or a weekend. Mrs. Penney always seemed excited to have us. She made me feel as at home as I have ever felt (indeed, I once let myself in with no one there, and when Mike and his mom returned, they seemed delighted to join me as I watched an Arkansas Razorback basketball game in their basement). Though I didn't appreciate it as much I should have, Mrs. Penney had the rare and winning trait of enduring interest in the people around her. She was forever a joy.

Pete Perkins - January 27, 2019 at 10:40 AM



“ Some of my favorite family memories took place at the Penney household over the holidays. When school started in the fall it was something I could look forward to going to the Penney's for Thanksgiving. We had huge dinners including Brunners, Redfields and Skyles. We all had so much fun.

Bernice picked me up at Stapleton airport in Denver on my way to Argentina. We went downtown and had lunch at a pancake house with Millard and she saw me on my way for my long trip.

We always felt welcomed at the Penney house.

We loved and will miss Bernice and Millard so much.

Bob Skyles - January 27, 2019 at 10:28 AM