



Bertha "Bertie" Mae Benham

May 23, 1934 - December 9, 2013

Bertie Benham, 79, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on December 9, 2013, after suffering a heart attack at her home. Cremation has taken place. Bertie was born in Bunker Hill, IL, May 23, 1934, the second child of Charles and Helen Howald. She attended school in Bunker Hill, and upon graduating high school, headed west to Boulder, CO, where she attended CU for a year. On a visit to Grand Teton National Park, she caught the eye of one of the park rangers, Marty Benham, and after a nine month courtship, became his wife. Marty's career as a National Park ranger took them to many of the most beautiful places on earth. Her first son, Blake was born in Yellowstone National Park, where Bertie was afforded a small "ice box" in their tiny cabin so she could keep formula for her baby boy. Her second son, Jeff, was born in Enumclaw, WA and her family of four lived in the National Parks of Washington's Mount Rainier, the Florida Everglades, and Idaho's Craters of the Moon. The family finally settled in Idaho Falls, ID. Upon Marty's retirement, they moved to Fort Collins, CO in 1984 where they enjoyed many activities related to CSU, especially their friends at CSU's senior fitness classes. Their summers were spent in Jackson, WY at their summer cabin. While her adventures led her to many places, her heart was captured by the Teton Valley and Jackson Hole, WY. The family built a cabin on 10 acres with a view of the Tetons that was awe-inspiring. Summers were spent entertaining a steady stream of friends and family. When you vacationed at "the cabin" you were treated to coffee from the percolator, and dinner cooked fireside at the

fire pit. After dinner, time was spent around the fire, listening to stories of the valley, of family gatherings, watching the stars fill the sky to the sound of Lake Creek and the coyotes howling in the distance. Moose, elk, deer, beaver, and the cattle of the Snake River Ranch were frequent visitors, as were hot air balloons that would drift by overhead and occasionally land on the cabin property. This was where Bertie was, and always will be, remembered as being happy and content. All was well with the world at the cabin.

Bertie is survived by sons Blake and Jeff (Bonnie) of Fort Collins, her two favorite grandchildren, Andy and Zoey of Fort Collins; her brother Sherwood "Chubby" Howald and wife Judy, sister Betty Zarges, brother Bob and his wife Carol, all of Bunker Hill, IL. She also leaves behind her beloved nieces and nephews: Mike (Roxanne) and Mark Howald; Billy (Stacy) and Bobby (Michelle) Zarges and Beth (Frank) Speziale; Gena, Tena and Dax (Ginger) Howald; and numerous cousins. To Bertie, her family was her prized and most precious possession. Her husband Marty, brother-in-law Bill Zarges and her parents preceded her in death.

Open House is scheduled for Sunday, December 22, 2013 from 1:00 - 4:00 PM at 1523 Peterson Street, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Tribute Wall



“ *Bertha "Bertie" Mae Benham*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Bertie was in our exercise class at CSU. She always had a smile and a hug for each of us. She will be missed. (Such a beautiful obituary; she had a rich life with Marty, her sons and beautiful places they had lived.) Caryl Beaty*

Caryl K. Beaty - December 16, 2013 at 10:26 AM



“ *We shared Adult Fitness Class with both Marty and Bertie for many years. In fact, remember seeing and talking with her there recently. Bertie was such a sweet, special lady and we miss her dearly! I know we will continue to look for her lovely smile for a long time! Our thoughts, prayers and hearts are with you all!*

Bud and Ruth Howard

Ruth Howard - December 16, 2013 at 09:57 AM



“ *Sending my condolences and sympathy to Bertie's family. I will miss seeing her and sharing with her...
from Linn Shaw her neighbor on Strachan Drive*

Linn Shaw - December 16, 2013 at 09:15 AM

SJ

“ Our neighborhood, myself and one of her favorite dogs, Scout, will miss Bertie, walking almost daily or driving to CSU for exercise sessions there. She was a good friend to many and I always enjoyed hearing her wonderful stories about her life. She seemed to have led one of the happiest and down-to-earth lives of anyone I know! Her husband was so dear to her, I know how she missed him when he passed away, but I know she loved her sons, grandchildren and the rest of her large family and many friends, too, and was close to all of them. We will miss her. Blessings to her entire family, but know what a wonderful woman she was. Susan JAWOROWSKI and family

Susan Jaworowski - December 15, 2013 at 01:22 PM

AG

“ Although I had not seen Bertie in years; I remembered so many fun memories of her at The Idaho Falls Racquet Club. Every week for years we used to play singles. She was one of the most genuine and kindest people I have ever known. Alice Kaye Guyer

Alice Kaye Guyer - December 13, 2013 at 08:33 AM

LC

“ Bertie was such an amazing friend, we never tired of talking about the fun times we had at Alpha Health Spa or at the cabin. She was my rock when I needed it the most and offered key to home and cabin for a get away. I love this lady and will miss her, especially the phone calls on our birthdays.
Great job writing the obituary, it was like reliving times with Bertie!
Love and prayers to you all.
LaDene Courval

LaDene Courval - December 12, 2013 at 08:52 PM

SA

“ *My prayers are with all the family. I have fond memories of summers spent at Berts home in Bunker Hill. The family had an old (really old) jeep (no top) and Bert would load us all in and we would drive into town. The jeep did not take bumps well. She was especially good to my sister and me. She will be missed.*

Sharon Ashley - December 12, 2013 at 02:47 PM