



Elizabeth "Betty" McLain

March 21, 1923 - May 14, 2016

Living during the Depression era was one of the most difficult times in American history. Life savings, homes, and jobs were lost in an instant. This time period was also one of the richest times for America as well. Not a time measured by wealth, but measured by lessons learned, relationships, and work ethic.

Elizabeth Grace "Betty" Jobbins was born on March 21, 1923 in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of Henry and Irene (Holmquist) Jobbins. Shortly after, her family moved to Pentwater, a place Betty formed the foundation of her life. As a young girl on the farm, she raised her own cow for milk and helped with the chickens and rabbits. Growing up during the depression years, she learned to be very frugal, an asset that remained throughout all her years. It was hard for her to throw away any item as long as it had good use left to it. She even wallpapered her little bedroom with the Sunday funny papers because they did not have enough money for paint. Later in life, if there was any way to make something herself, rather than purchasing it, she would figure out a way to do it. For years she picked night crawlers to enhance the family income and sold them to the local sports shops. All the neighbors knew that if they saw a light in their yard after midnight, it was Betty out getting her nightly quota. Sometimes a neighbor would be awake and invite her in for a cup of coffee.

Betty's life changed when she was introduced to a local musician by the name of Milton McLain. They married on June 29, 1941 at the First Baptist Church in Pentwater and settled into an apartment on Harrison Street in Ludington while they began to build a new home on James Street. Here they welcomed their first child, Milton Jr. As World War II had already begun, Milt was drafted into the Army and served overseas in Europe. Betty supported Milt and the war effort as a true "Rosie Riveter" working at a factory in Pentwater that made bomb racks for airplanes. She often stayed with her parents in Pentwater to cut down on the travel, but still took Milt Jr. and rode the bus into Ludington to stay at the apartment and work on the house. Again the lessons learned during the depression were present, as she laid new linoleum in the bedroom herself and purchased war bonds every payday. She had saved enough money to be able to help out a relative

with a loan.

As a woman of strong faith, Sunday's were a day of rest. She and Milt Jr. would walk around town, share and ice cream cone, and enjoy sitting on the beach. Her parents would take photos of the two to send to Milt Sr. overseas.

After Milt returned from the war, they finished the home on James Street and welcomed Tony, Cindy, and Lawrence into their family. Milt was a very good guitarist and sang often on local radio stations. Betty would sing with him and they even traveled to Chicago to sing together on WLS. The duo continued their singing for years, even enjoying the blessing to sing for their grandchildren.

In 1953, the McLain family moved into their final home on Third Street in Scottville. This home was the center of activity in the neighborhood. Her door was always open to friends and family who might stop by for a cup of coffee and her kids friends knew they were welcome anytime. Betty made popsicles in the old tin trays during the summer and every kid around knew a treat was waiting for them. She hosted Bible studies in the home and loved to share her faith with anyone who was interested. The home was filled with the aroma of her cooking and baking, often from the fruits and vegetables from her garden. Betty canned and froze the harvest during the summer to provide good inexpensive meals during the winter months. Again, the lessons learned in her younger years served her well as she sewed many on the clothes her children wore, stitched quilts for their beds, and decorated the home with crafts. In addition to being a den mother in scouts, she actively volunteered for school projects, helping cook at fund raisers, rode buses as a chaperone, helped with Harvest Festival booths, band solo ensemble, and the March of Dimes.

Family always remained at the center of her life. Every Sunday the family visited her parents in Pentwater, where Betty would bring a delicious dish of food for her parents and would mend any of the clothes that needed repair. As a grandmother herself, Betty loved visiting her children and grandchildren, arriving with newly sewn clothes for the grandchildren. Betty was preceded in death by her beloved Milt on February 22, 2008. They had celebrated 66 years together by each other's side. Along with her husband, Betty was also preceded in death by her parents, her granddaughter Robbi Lynn (McLain) Leftwich, her brother Fred Jobbins, and her sisters Ruth Eyestone and June Isaacson.

Betty passed away on Saturday, May 14, 2016 at Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital. She will be greatly missed by her children Milton (Laurie) McLain Jr. of Owosso, Tony (Melissa) McLain of Sault Ste. Marie, Cindy (Gordon) Wyant of Grant, and Lawrence McLain of Scottville, 14 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, 16 great, great-

grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service will be held for Betty at 11:00 am on Wednesday, June 15 at Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services – Stephens Funeral Home in Scottville. Burial will follow at Brookside Cemetery. Friends may meet with her family for a time of visitation on Wednesday morning from 10:00 – 11:00 am at the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Brookside Cemetery

950 W. State Street
Scottville, MI 49454

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - Stephens Funeral Home
305 E. State St.
Scottville, MI 49454
(231) 757-3333
wyman-stephens@sbcglobal.net
<https://www.wymanfuneralservice.com>

Celebration of Life Service

JUN **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" McLain



Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - June 14, 2016 at 06:51 PM



Lovely Betty and Milt both will b missed lovely people

Denise Churchill - June 16, 2016 at 04:14 PM

DM

“ The best thing in Bettys life was her family. She shared so many stories of all of you. She loved the pictures you shared and the letters you wrote and she loved to share them with me. I feel like I know each and every one of you. I met Betty when she came to visit Milt. We started talking way back then and always had something to talk about. When she came to Oakview, I think I was a familiar sight and we picked up where we left off. We had a great friendship and I will miss her more than you know. Thank you for sharing her with me. Sincerely, Diane McDonald

Diane McDonald - June 15, 2016 at 08:40 PM



“ 20 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wyman Funeral & Cremation Services - June 14, 2016 at 06:31 PM

LH

“ *Linda Hackert lit a candle in memory of Elizabeth "Betty" McLain*



linda hackert - June 13, 2016 at 09:31 PM

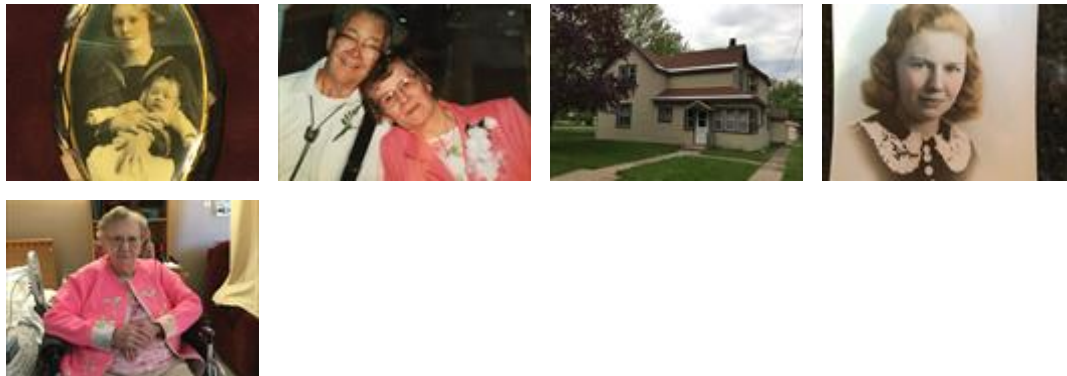
BV

“ *What a good neighbor for us kids growing up on Third Street in Scottville. She and her family were always willing to help out when the kids across the street need some watching over. It was a little confusing at first that my "second" mother's name was also Betty. My condolences to Betty's family. Brad Vanderlaan*

Brad Vanderlaan - June 08, 2016 at 10:31 AM

CW

“ *27 files added to the album Elizabeth McLain*



Cindy McLain Wyant - May 28, 2016 at 03:39 PM

LE

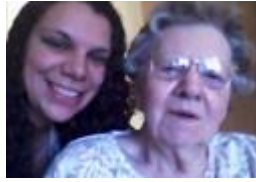
“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



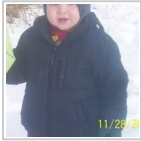
Leah - May 28, 2016 at 02:17 PM

LI

“ 27 files added to the album *Elizabeth McLain*



Lisa - May 28, 2016 at 11:53 AM



“ *Betty was a loving grandmother and great grandmother. She was so proud of her family and such a kind friend. She will be missed.*

Joanna Williams - May 17, 2016 at 03:17 PM