



Dorothy Benjamin Holmes

March 27, 1925 - May 14, 2014

OMENA - Dorothy Benjamin Holmes, 89, of Omena, formerly of Cadillac, Michigan, passed away May 14, 2014, at Tendercare of Leelanau, in Suttons Bay, Michigan. The daughter of Stanley L. and Lillian (Couch) Benjamin, she was born March 27, 1925, in Carsonville, Michigan. Dorothy married Herbert Everett Holmes on December 28, 1945, in Croswell, Michigan.

As a child of the Great Depression, Dorothy embraced the creativity that can be born out of hardship. She accepted the challenge to find beauty in old and cast-off things - and was dedicated to designing and making quilts, rugs and other art, much of which, as she wished, will long survive her.

After graduation from the Croswell Public Schools, Dorothy defied the family tradition of Albion College to attend Michigan State University, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Home Economics and became a life-long Spartan. While at MSU, Dorothy met Herbert, whom she married as soon as he returned from his WWII U.S. Army service overseas. She and Herb first lived in Lake City and then Cadillac.

In 1983 the Holmeses found an old farmstead in Omena the perfect place to retire. Dorothy and her husband began to collect antiques shortly after they married, saying that "if they lasted 100 years they can last through our kids." All eight of their children received college degrees. She believed in education, always seeking to make a difference in the lives of the young. Dorothy was born five years after women got the vote. She said that she hoped to live long enough to vote for a woman to be President of the United States.

Dorothy is survived by seven children: Lucinda (Peter) Komblevitz of Lowell; Cassandra (Larry) Proctor of St. John's; Mark Holmes of Round Lake, Illinois; Justin (Judith) Holmes of Gazelle, California; Molly (Mark) Cybowski of Charlotte, North Carolina; Heidi (David) Tagg of Coppersville, and Amanda (Daniel Stewart) Holmes of Omena; thirteen grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and two sisters, Norma (Richard) Cade and Helen (Ken) Knudtzon; and the many nieces and nephews and young friends who called the

Holmes household home for summer after summer.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband Herbert Everett Holmes; daughter Jennifer (Steve) Oppeneer, parents Stanley L. and Lillian (Couch) Benjamin; and three brothers, Robert, Edward and William Benjamin.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Interlochen Public Radio, Interlochen, PO Box 199, 9350 Lyon Street, Interlochen, MI 49643-0199. Dorothy acknowledged that when she could no longer see to create art or to read, the station brought her music and the news of the world.

Please share your memories with Dorothy's family at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com> or mail to P.O. Box 137 Omena, MI., 49674.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. The family is being served by the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

Comments



“ To Herb and Dotty's Children
We live just down the street in Missaukee Park from the their old home and have lots of memories of the card games we had in our old card club. My God comfort you in your
Erv and Betty Borsum

Ervin Borsum - May 17, 2014 at 08:34 AM



“ Cindy and siblings,
You are in our thoughts. I still remember the time your brothers carried the couch from your parents home to my apartment down the sidewalk! You were so lucky to have such a loving mom! I enjoyed reading the obit and seeing where you all are now. Thinking of you. Keith and Aldyne Ebels

Aldyne Ebels - May 16, 2014 at 05:52 PM



“ Though I didn't know Dottie well, she taught both my mother and Me how to do counted crosstitch. That became my mothers favorite hobby. We also went to a little seminar that Dottie taught in making old and unusual items into useful and decorative things. She taught me to see wonderful in the ordinary. I have so appreciated that gift she gave me! Thank you, Dottie!

Gayle Maurer - May 16, 2014 at 04:24 PM



“ To Herb and Dotty's Children,
My thoughts and prayers are with you all. I am sure your dad and Jenny was waiting for your mom at the Gate to Heaven and they are enjoying each other. She was a lady that lived on in memory for anyone who met her and spent time with her.
Gerry Seger
Lake City

Gerry Seger - May 16, 2014 at 11:39 AM



“ What a lady you were Dotty Holmes!!! Memories of the most beautiful hand embroidered prom dresses. Our adventures together shopping for antiques. Finding me the artistic German man who hand caned my antique rocker. Your home was always open to one and all and your smile warmly greeted every person you met. You were the BEST!!! You died on my dad's birthday, so I know every birthday of his, you will be remembered too. Thanks for all the wonderful memories I had with you.
Gerry Seger
Lake City

Gerry Seger - May 16, 2014 at 11:32 AM



“ Diane Elyard sent a virtual gift in memory of Dorothy Benjamin Holmes



Diane Elyard - May 16, 2014 at 11:00 AM



“ My deepest and most sincere condolences to one amazing family.

My most vivid memories of Dotty were when I was a teenager and hung out at the log house in Lake City when my family was up at our cottage. I had this pair of ratty, ragged jeans with no knees that I loved and wore constantly. She hated them and talked me out of them one day. I hung out at the house in a t-shirt and probably a bathing suit bottom while she locked herself in her sewing room and attached red ball rick-rack in perfect circles around the holes in the knees. Her intention was to make them so I wouldn't wear them....my own mom practically had to pry them off me. My favorite pair of jeans until I wore them out.

Then there were all those nights when I was living at the cottage one summer and had dinner with the family....everyone had a job if you ate there and she always cornered me to do dishes or set the table. And there were the times sitting on the stairs and she wanted someone's attention...one of her own children...and instead of calling them by name she'd yell "hey, you! Yeah, you". It stuck with me that all of them were used to being called 'Hey You' by their mom. Awesome woman. Awesome memories.

She will be greatly missed.

Diane Sears Elyard

Diane Elyard - May 16, 2014 at 10:59 AM