



Betty Ralston Cooley

January 16, 1927 - September 25, 2020

Siskiyou County lost a long-standing member of the community as Betty Cooley, 93, passed on September 25, 2020 after a short illness. Betty was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Stan Cooley. Together they raised horses and cattle and farmed the land at the Circle 7 Ranch in Montague and in the summers operated the Circle 7 Guest Ranch in McCloud. To the day she passed, she spent winters in Montague and summers in McCloud.

As the eldest child of Vayne and Haldis Ralston, Betty was born at home in January of 1927 on a ranch that is now the campground at Lake Siskiyou. At three years old, the family moved to Grenada where the Ralstons would establish their family ranch with multiple generations living there. Betty would never stop being the “big sister” to her brother Jack and sister Marjorie.

Betty attended school in Grenada, where she would become valedictorian and graduate in 1944. She could not wait to get out of high school and get on with her life. She attended St.Luke’s School of Nursing in San Francisco until 1946 when she went back to Siskiyou County after a family emergency. There she worked in a couple of doctor offices and met the love of her life, Stan Cooley.

In 1947, Betty went back to school at Fresno State to continue her education. There she lived with her uncle, Art Selland and his family. In the spring of

1948, Betty became very ill and would eventually be diagnosed with polio. After being put on bed rest she went back to Grenada. Despite her disabilities, Stan visited her daily.

With the doctor's permission they were allowed to marry in May of 1949. This would be the start of an amazing legacy. Together they had two children, Art and Robin, and lived lives of community service, with a commitment to raising high quality Quarter Horses that would transfer to generations to come.

In 1952, Stan and Betty organized the first Junior Rodeo in Montague and then in 1956, they started the Montague Stampede Rodeo. They continued to be involved in the production of these events for the next 25 years.

In 1964 they purchased property in McCloud and opened the Cooley's Circle 7 Guest Ranch. With cabins, a campground and dude string, they had guests from near and far. Despite closing the ranch in 1982, prior guests would drop in to this day. You could always count on Betty meeting you at the bridge with a smile and a story.

Betty served her community for years as a musician at the Montague Methodist Church, a Sunday school teacher and youth director. She was a past member of the Willow Creek School Board, Siskiyou County School Board, Siskiyou County Cowbells and McCloud Chamber of Commerce. In her later years she worked every Friday at the McCloud Heritage Junction Museum.

Most of all, Betty was an amazing wife, sister, mother, grandmother and friend. She is survived by her son Art and wife Annette; daughter Robin, partner Mike Matherly and daughter Nancy Matherly; stepdaughter Pam Mastelotto; grandson Chris Mastelotto and wife Anna, granddaughter Michelle and husband Ted Lundberg; granddaughter Casey and husband Kris Gudel;

grandson Stan and wife Katie; great-grandchildren Clayton and Grady Cooley and Gentry and Kade Gudel; brother Jack Ralston and wife Sandy; sister Marjorie Bley; as well as many more great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Per Betty's request there will be no services at this time. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Betty's name to the McCloud Heritage Junction Museum, PO Box 604, McCloud, CA 96057.

Tribute Wall

TN

“ I have many childhood memories of both Betty and Stan. Wonderful, generous, kind people. Sending condolences to Art, Robin, and their families. Tracy (Yates) Nord

Tracy Nord - October 16, 2020 at 05:25 PM

SS

“ So many fun times at the Cooley ranch in Willits. Betty was always the life of the party she will be missed but will think about her often

Sharon Short - October 15, 2020 at 08:23 PM

MC

“ We will miss you Betty. You have been such a wonderful friend and we have so many memories of you and your family. Betty and Stan celebrated their 25th Anniversary with my mom and dad. Many fun parties and ropings. Remember riding in McCloud with the Montague Lancerettes. Love this family!!! Rest In Peace Betty. Job well done on earth

Marsha Lightle Chambers - October 15, 2020 at 07:55 PM

KW

“ Good bye, Betty. I only met you once when visiting the summer place near Mt. Shasta with Robin. What a lovely, smart, hard working woman. 93 was a good long run, filled with a loving life. You will be missed. KC Wilson, Sandpoint, Idaho

KC Wilson - October 15, 2020 at 11:38 AM

DS

“ *David Sylva lit a candle in memory of Betty Ralston Cooley*



David Sylva - October 13, 2020 at 09:11 AM

MF

“ *A very lovely and special lady who will be missed. My condolences to the family 🙏❤️*



Marsha Farley - October 13, 2020 at 12:08 AM

SS

“ *I have wonderful memories of my Aunt Betty. (Uncle Stan was my Mom's brother). I loved her sourdough pancakes, her laugh still resonates in my head, her nose that would wrinkle when she would laugh..... I was always entranced by her stunning beauty as a young woman. She was always kind, gracious, classy and funny. She will be missed by us all. 💔*

Sharon Spencer - October 12, 2020 at 09:15 PM

LH

“ *Love this woman and her family! The Cooley ropings were the best! RIP Ms. Betty! It was an absolute honor to know you!!*

Leann Hartline - October 12, 2020 at 08:52 PM



“ *Jackpot team roping at the Montague rodeo grounds is a favorite memory of Betty. She and Stan set it all up and we sure had fun. She was a friendly and happy lady. My last meeting with them was 2005 at the memorial for my mother. Rest in peace Betty. Condolences to the family.*

Chris Hanley (Churchill)

Christine Hanley - October 12, 2020 at 04:20 PM

SF

“ *Will never forget the time we spent at the breakfast table just telling stories of Pappa Stan. She was the most gracious host and special lady. Forever in our hearts 💕*

Suzanne Fullerton - October 12, 2020 at 03:46 PM

GB

Betty was a great lady When I first started doing hair in Montague she was one of my clients Carolyn Andrews had a shop there Betty would come in the door from working cows on the ranch covered with who knows what I would hand her the shampoo as she went by and after her shower come out looking all spiffy get her hair done and off she would go on her next adventure so many memories and stories of her life well lived.

Grace Bennett - October 13, 2020 at 12:09 PM

KT

The first time I met Betty I knew that I wanted to know more about her and her life. I had that opportunity when I was asked if I would have time to clean her house. I never hesitated and instantly said "yes." Never once did I regret that decision. I loved telling her stories and listening to her life experiences. Love that Lady and will miss her.

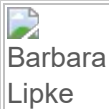
Kathy Twidwell

Katherine Twidwell - October 13, 2020 at 12:23 PM

KP

Wonderful, wonderful Lady! Will miss her dearly even though I hadn't seen her very often in the last years. Growing up in Grenada, DeSoza Lane, my Dad had a house next door to them off A12, he was postmaster there, Truelove. She always had a smile and knew everyone, just a joy to know her. She will be greatly missed and my thoughts and prayers to the family. My Mom, Vivian was in Cowbells with her, so many memories.

Kathleen Perdue - October 13, 2020 at 07:46 PM

Barbara Lipke

Robin, I am so sorry for your loss. It is hard to lose your parents, but you were lucky to have so many years and memories. She sounded like a wonderful lady. I am sorry I never met her. God Bless all of your family.

Barbara Lipke Robbins Silvius - October 16, 2020 at 11:51 AM