



Ruth Jean Stephens

April 21, 1928 - May 2, 2020

Ruth Jean Snow Sudbury Stephens lived an astonishing life to the age of 92. She passed away peacefully on Saturday May 2nd, 2020 due to COVID-19.

Ruth Jean was born on April 21, 1928, in Salt Lake City, Utah to Ruth Davis (Kelly) and Erastus Pymm Snow.

As a great granddaughter of pioneer Erastus Snow, Ruth Jean grew up in the Capitol Hill area of Salt Lake City, spending untold hours with her beloved grandmother Ann Pymm Snow, who lived at the Hotel Utah. Her family was associated with the Salt Lake Garfield and Western Railway, Portland Cement and Saltair Resort, where she spent time dancing to the bands. She attended Wasatch Elementary, Bryant Jr. High, and graduated as a student council leader from East High school in 1945.

As a young socialite she met Ray Keith Sudbury, and they were married in December of 1948 on Keith's 21st birthday. She attended the University of Utah and was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. Ruth Jean was a woman of glamour and great beauty. She modeled for Auerbach's and Z.C.M.I department stores and appeared in the movie "Bad Bascom."

Ruth Jean and Keith were owners of Sudbury Food Town and the Salt Lake Athletic Club. Jean was devoted to Keith until his death in 1990. Ruth Jean married James (Jim) Stephens in 1992. They enjoyed much time together with Jim's extended family and as snowbirds in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

Ruth Jean was affiliated with the Willow Creek, Desert Island, Town, and Salt Lake Country Clubs. She was a member of the Junior League and a fervent supporter of Football Little League. She had many friends and was an amazing hostess.

Every summer of her life Jean cherished spending time in the Uinta Mountains, where she liked to fly fish and entertain at her cabin. She will remain a legacy within the Holiday Park

Association.

Ruth Jean also found painting, swimming and cooking pleasurable and she was always up for a football bet.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents and husbands; her brothers, Ashby (Gail) and William Snow (Louise), and her sister Peggy Firth (Rex).

She is survived by her daughters Sydney Lee (Dale), Shauna Sudbury, sons Raymond Sudbury (Cathy) and Randall Sudbury (Heather). Also surviving are her grandchildren Sara, Christopher, Randy Earl, Megan, Madeline, Carlton James, Corrie, William, Ryan, and Ashby. She also has six great grandchildren.

A private family grave site service will be held with a celebration of her life to be announced at a later date.

Comments



“ I first met Ruth Jean when we were at Bryant together. We became friends and at the U we both pledged Pi Beta Phi. The summer after our freshman year we piled in Jean's blue convertible and we were off to Jenny Lake Ranch in the Tetons. We got lost three times on our way there laughing all the way. We were young and on our own for the first time.

We were to be waitresses there for the summer. The Ranch had been closed during the war and so all the cabins and the lodge were in terrible condition so we were the cleaners. We cleaned cabins, washed windows, made beds, cleaned out the Johns and , we even made curtains for the windows. We finally got to wait on tables. We had a great summer , we went swimming in String Lake. horseback riding, hiked in the mountains and often went to Jackson to watch men at the Wort loose thousands of dollars gambling. We sometimes used our tip money to play the slot machines to no avail. We also loved to dance there. I happened to see again Steve Nebeker who was a Bell Hop at the Ranch. We had a wonderful summer romance that turned out to be 67 years of marriage. Ruth Jean had many boy friends who came up there to see her, to numerous to count. She was an unusually gifted and lovely friend. I remember her fondly.

June Nebeker

June Nebeker - May 07 at 04:57 PM



“ Please know that our thoughts and prayers of comfort go out to your family at this time.

Ruth was an extremely classy woman with a lot of amazing talents, hobbies and interests. But it is clear that her greatest joys and True legacy come from her family.

Having lost our father several weeks ago, we understand your feelings of loss. However, I have come to realize that the very reasons that I feel sad for the loss of my father are the very same reasons why I feel Immense gratitude for being blessed with such an amazing father. I can only imagine that you feel the same way about your amazing Mother Grandmother and Great Grandmother.

I'm sure you will all continue to make her proud

Sincerely,

Doug & Sheri Swenson

Doug Swenson - May 07 at 10:03 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Ruth Jean Stephens.



May 06 at 09:29 PM



“ I came to know Jean at The Ridge while visiting with my mother Edith who is also a resident there. Jean and Edith were the best of friends in the memory unit and always together. Speaking on behalf of my mother, I know she's just lost her best friend and she will be dearly missed.

Marilyn Petty

Marilyn Petty - May 06 at 01:31 AM

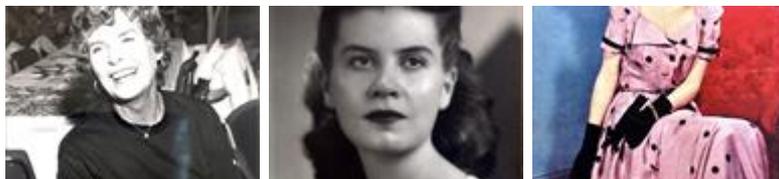


“ We were so very fortunate to have had Ruth Jean a part of our lives and memories. Our sincere condolences to all of her wonderful family.
Love,
Joel and Jeannine Pratt

jeannine pratt - May 05 at 11:00 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



SHAUNA SUDBURY - May 05 at 04:50 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



SHAUNA SUDBURY - May 05 at 02:59 PM



“ I'm sorry for your loss and wish all of you the best. The pictures of your Mom are fantastic and brought back many happy memories of time with her, Keith and with all of you.

John

John Owens - May 05 at 02:40 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



SHAUNA SUDBURY - May 05 at 01:39 PM



“ Jean was bequeathed with royalty, celebrity, VIP, and popularity but always maintained her grip on the practical, sensible, and realistic. She could tell a great story and a had a breadth of material to draw upon. She had a dry sense of humor and was always quick with a laugh. I will remain forever grateful for the joy and care she provided my father and will miss her subtle words of wisdom. Being the pioneer she was, I suspect she won't rest in peace but is rather trailblazing her next chapter. My condolences to the Sudbury clan. Sincerely, Roger

Roger Stephens - May 05 at 01:13 PM



“ Grandma Jean, and her eldest Granddaughter, Crystal.



Sara - May 05 at 12:01 AM



“ *Great Granddaughter

Sara - May 05 at 12:03 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



SHAUNA SUDBURY - May 04 at 10:47 PM



“ Granddaughter Megan and Great Granddaughter Louisa

SHAUNA SUDBURY - May 05 at 09:27 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



SHAUNA SUDBURY - May 04 at 10:40 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



SHAUNA SUDBURY - May 04 at 08:23 PM