



Ruth D. (Dieffenbacher) Smith

August 7, 1921 - January 23, 2013

Ruth D. (Dieffenbacher) Smith, 91, of Lower Raven Creek Road, Benton, died early Wednesday morning, January 23rd, 2013 at her home.

Born August 7, 1921 in Hemlock Township, she was a daughter of the late Kester E. and Agnes G. (Maust) Dieffenbacher.

She was a graduate of Bloomsburg High School, Class of 1939 and then attended Mansfield State Teachers College.

Ruth assisted her husband with the operation of Thunder Bird Farm, the family dairy business, during their marriage of 46 years. She excelled at being a loving, caring, homemaking mother and wife. Sewing, cooking, baking, canning and bread baking were her daily gifts to family and friends. Vegetable and flower gardening, yard maintenance, rock collecting, observing nature and reading were her relaxing pastimes.

She was a member of the Benton Christian Church and served as a leader of the Raven Creek 4-H Club for more than 25 years.

Surviving, are her 5 daughters: Nancy S. Musselman; Jean S. Hess and her husband, Donald; Linda M. Smith; Ann E. DePoe and her husband, David and Janet E. Smith, all of Benton. Also surviving are 6 grandchildren: C. Robert Musselman, Chris Musselman, Jennifer Musselman, Brenda Jones, Gloria Mommo and Sandy Musselman; 9 great grandchildren;

4 great great grandchildren; a brother, Donald J. Dieffenbacher and his wife, Marge, of Buckhorn; a sister-in-law, Irene Dieffenbacher, of Buckhorn and a number of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles R. Smith on February 11, 1988; a daughter, Dorothy A."Dottie" Smith in 1955; a stillborn son, Gerald R. Smith in 1951; a twin daughter in November 1946; a grandson, Dale R. Hess on March 22, 1989; a son-in-law, LeRoy L. Musselman on Oct. 22, 2009; a sister, Lois Allen in 1991; a brother, Harold Dieffenbacher in 2005 and a niece, Beth German in 2010.

A Celebration of Ruth's life will be held Thursday, February 7th, 2013 at 2 P. M. at the McMichael Funeral Home, Inc., 4394 Red Rock Road, Benton (Rt. 487) with the Rev. Dr. David Mansfield, officiating. Burial will be at the convenience of the family in the Benton Cemetery. A Visitation will be held Thursday, February 7th from 1 P.M. until the time of the service at McMichael's. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her memory to the Benton Park, P. O. Box 520, Benton, PA 17814 or to the March of Dimes, c/o Maureen Lloyd, 100 N. Academy Drive, Danville, PA 17822-2710.

Cemetery Details

Benton Cemetery

Cemetery Hill Rd
Benton, PA

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 7. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

McMichael Funeral Home, Inc.
4394 Red Rock Rd.
S.R. 487
Benton, PA 17814
(570) 204-0858
info@mcmichaelfuneralhome.com

Service

FEB 7. 2:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

BO

“ *Bonnie(Houseweart)Young sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruth D. (Dieffenbacher) Smith*



Bonnie(Houseweart)Young - January 31, 2013 at 04:14 PM

BF

“ *To the entire family of Ruth Smith. We are so very sorry for your loss. You were fortunate to have your Mother- Grandmother with you for all these years. Cherish all the great times you had with her. Our sympathy to all of you.*

Barbara and Loren Fish - January 29, 2013 at 03:05 PM



“ *This is my Grandmother. The most amazing and beautiful woman inside and out. In my youth and adult hood I never heard this woman say a hurtful word toward anyone. If you read her obituary you will see that she was a teacher. She was involved with 4-H and many people in Benton will remember her there and at Church events. If you read about her sewing, cooking and baking abilities you will know that SHE, my Grandma Smith, was a "Martha Stewart" long before the real one came along. I had been taking my shoes off at her doorstep since I could remember, it got easier as I became the age to wear Flip Flops. Far more than being a teacher, Ruth D. Smith was mother and an absolutely wonderful Grandmother.*

She became my Grandma in a way that was unconditional. When my parents married, my sisters and I became part of her family instantly. She took the three of us in as if we were born to be her Grandchildren. Her skin was porcelain, her hair this amazing shade of gray and her hands were worn but so soft when she grabbed my cheeks to kiss me, which I loved her doing....a lot!

I went to her house for the soul purpose of spending time with her and hearing her and my Grandpa Smith talk. Grandpa would sit at the big wooden table and Grandma Smith would be dishing out homemade pie, cake or cookies. Okay...the goodies might be another reason why I enjoyed visiting. As my Grandpa Smith talked my Grandma would chuckle and add a few words here or there. The stories were about my mother and my Aunts. As I got older and Grandma knew I was in trouble at home for something, she would turn the stories into times when "her girls" she called them, got in trouble. For that little second, the heat would be off me and I had something to remind "MOM" that she did as a child.

The Christmas trees at her house were extraordinary. None other than any tree I have ever seen. I use to think it was a "Charlie Brown" tree and one more ornament on it would knock it over. The ornaments were amazing, some were from places she had been.

She would spend time telling me where each one came from. They weren't your usual Christmas bulbs because, as I said it wasn't your usual tree. Nothing my family ever did was usual.

How proud I am to say that my Grandfather AND Grandmother owned Thunder Bird Farm. She worked hard at helping my Grandpa care for the farm and to care for him and each of us in this family. Her life will never go unremembered. She was the matriarch of this family. She was part of a fifth generation family. She tended to me and my siblings our whole young lives. She can now be reunited with Grandpa Smith. I am a Grandmother myself but I do not exude the beauty, grace, dignity and undying love for all that she did her whole life.

In closing I would like to say my Grandma Smith raised 5 of the most beautiful, talented, kind, caring and loving women I know. Each one of these women grew up to be strong and different then the next. Only one of those women, I hope she knows, is exactly like my late Grandmother. Just a small hint I grew up lucky.

BRENDA JONES - January 25, 2013 at 09:32 PM

PE

“ Hello Smith Family,
Read about the passing of you're wonderful mother in the paper this morning. It certainly took me back to the days on the farm. Growing up neighbors and friends, Memories of visiting and her always making sure I had a slice of homemade pie and some good "Guernsey" milk to go with it. Mrs. Smith was a kind woman whom I always enjoyed seeing on my visits. MY Sympathy to the Smith Family. A life well lived, a Mother always Cherished. God Bless.
Peggy Hollinger- Evans

Peg Evans - January 25, 2013 at 12:33 PM

JH

“ *Janus Haeussler lit a candle in memory of Ruth D. (Dieffenbacher) Smith*



Janus Haeussler - January 25, 2013 at 12:25 PM

JH

Thinking of you all.

Janus Haeussler - January 25, 2013 at 12:25 PM

NE

*So sorry for your loss. She was a very fine lady and taught me so much in all the years I spent in 4-H..
Norma & Ed Eveland*

Norma & Ed Eveland - January 25, 2013 at 05:02 PM