

Buracker & Boraker

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Ruth Irene (Boraker) Southland 1906-2001

AFTER living a long life for more than 95 years, **Ruth Irene (Boraker) Southland** died on December 12, 2001 in Blaine, Washington. As the daughter of **Charles T. Boraker and Ella May (Crawford)**, she was born on February 28, 1906 in Missouri.

Ruth married **Gerritt John Southland** on March 25, 1944. He was born in the Netherlands about 1903. Their adopted son Paul gave the following eulogy at the funeral service in Blaine, Washington on December 18th:

“Well Mom, I’ve said all I can to you in this world. So this is for the benefit of those of us still here. You taught me all the important lessons of life, not so much with words as with deeds. I watched you spend your life on a few people, totally immersed in our well being and us. It wasn’t easy to get within your inner circle, but once there, it was impossible to be ejected.

“In 1947, while a nurse at the county hospital, you met Dad; a log had rolled over him in a logging accident, crushing him. He was given little hope of walking by his doctors, but you nursed him back to full recovery. Then you married him

and cared for him until his death in 1983.

“In 1954 I started my lessons with you. You were 48 years old at the time; Dad was 51. I was born that year at the county hospital and known as ‘Baby Boy’ until the time you took me home and made me the center of your lives. Only recently, have I come to understand the sacrifice made by you for my benefit. I am 47 years old now with four grandchildren. The thought of starting a family at this time in my life is daunting; it would require that I lay down all plans for my own future. That is what you did.

“So this is what I believe you spent half a lifetime teaching me:

“Love is a choice, made with commitment; followed with persistent effort in the face of all adversity, given freely with no expectation of return.

“God said that love is the greatest gift of all. Thank you for living that gift and instructing me in God’s love.”

By Paul Southland, Dec. 18, 2001