

Norma Louise Haas Robbins

13 October 1919 - 11 December 2004

85 Years, 1 month, 28 days

Norma Louise Haas was born on October 13, 1919 in the little house on east 17th Street that had been built by her parents Mabel and August Haas. She was the second of five very active girls. Her father was an accomplished musician and played the clarinet in the Navy Band and was a supervisor at Ball Brothers Company. Her mother, besides riding herd on the five girls, managed to become a skilled seamstress.

Norma attended Muncie city schools and graduated from Muncie Central High School in 1938. Following graduation she attended Indiana Business College.

She loved to both ice and roller skate and spent quite a bit of time at the Gibson Skating Rink. One night while skating she met this handsome young man who eventually became the love of her life. Norma and Walter were engaged on October 13 1942 and married on May 29, 1943 during the midst of World War II. They were married at the Walnut Street Baptist Church (Now the Shawnee Heights Baptist Church) by minister Edgar Hamilton.

Norma continued to live at home with her parents while Walter served in the Army during the war. She worked at Ball Brothers and then later as a Navy inspector at the Delco-Battery plant where they were making ammunition shells for the war effort. She joined Walter at Camp Carson, Colorado in the summer of 1944 until he had to leave for Europe. Norma was in Ball Hospital giving birth to their first child Walter, Jr (Clif) while Walter, Sr was in a hospital in France recovering from wounds received in Germany.

The little family was soon reunited and moved to a house on 16th street and then shortly after to a house on Centennial. The family increased when the second son, Phil was born in October of 1946.

In about 1949 the family moved to a small farm north of Eaton where Norma made the change from a city girl to a farm wife and mother. There were many changes that took place in her life and she experienced things she had only heard about before. Another addition was made to the family when daughter Janet was born in December of 1949.

A move to a 110-acre farm West of Eaton brought Norma to a whole new level of farm life. This was a large operation for that time period. Angus beef cattle and hogs were being raised along with a herd of milk cows. Corn and soybeans were being raised as well. Here she learned and participated in all aspects of farm life from learning to milk cows to feeding and caring for the animals. Farm life is long and hard work and she proved equal to the task. She also managed to raise her three young children along the way.

In 1958 the family purchased a motel south of Muncie and operated it for about two years. Once again Norma had to learn and use new skills in running this business that was open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. It was constant cleaning, repairing and washing of linens. This was just as time consuming and difficult work as the farm.

Next, a new home was purchased north of Daleville and Norma was then able to become active in some Home economic clubs and other organizations that she enjoyed. In 1966 they had a new home built south of Yorktown. Norma worked at Zayre Department Store in the fabric department for 14 years retiring in 1982.

All of her life Norma enjoyed making things with her hands. She was quite accomplished at a variety of crafts including tatting, crocheting, knitting, cross-stitch and sewing. She always enjoyed making clothing for her children, and others, but she really began to be productive upon the arrival of her first grandchild Kelly in 1964. She made sure that little girl was well outfitted. When her 4 grandsons - Jeff, David, Kevin and Scotty followed, she made sure they had plenty of clothes as well.

Norma bowled on several leagues in both Muncie and Anderson. She and her daughter Janet traveled to several tournaments around the country. They placed 17th in the WIBC Nationals in 1984 in St Louis.

Norma loved to laugh. She enjoyed recalling funny episodes from her life and would laugh so hard at times that she would lose her breath. One story in particular gave her much delight. Living on the farm one of her chores was to feed the chickens. While walking through the chicken yard the "Guard Duck" would follow her and try to peck at her legs. One day she took a pan with her and when the duck approached she swung the pan and it connected with the ducks head - To say the least the duck did not attack her that day and it gained an entirely new respect for her - the duck also walked kind of funny after that episode. Norma would laugh so hard while telling this story she could hardly finish it.

Norma and Walter loved having their grandchildren visit with them and the weekends at their house rarely was quiet. Later when the grandchildren had grown and the great-grandchildren had arrived they too were spending a great deal of time with Grandma and Grandpa.

She loved making her crafts and giving them to those who were less fortunate or were in need. She made several quilts for the Angel Network in Hartford City and over 40 quilts for Riley Hospital in 2003.

She loved to share her talents with others and this was somewhat diminished with the onset of her illness. Even while under the stress of her illness and her treatments she continued volunteering with Janet at Elmcroft Assisted Living Center helping the residents make various craft projects.

Norma was a gifted, caring person who gave of her time and talents to help others. She has left her footprints in the sand and her loving nature in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known her. She left this life on the 11th of December 2004 surrounded by Walter, Clif, Janet and Clif's wife Tina. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Walter C Robbins Jr (Clif)

14 December 2004