



Merilou Hamilton

DEC 23, 1926 - FEB 16, 2014



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Merilou Hamilton

DEC 23, 1926 - FEB 16, 2014

Merilou (White) Hamilton, age 87 of Centerville, Iowa passed away Sunday, February 16, 2014 at Mercy Medical Center in Centerville, Iowa.

She was born on December 23, 1926 in Centerville, Iowa to John and Lula (Houser) White. Merilou attended Centerville Schools and graduated from Centerville High School with the Class of 1945. She married Ralph M. Hamilton on June 2, 1945 in Des Moines, Iowa and to this union, five children were born, Zelda, Wayne, Willis, Zelma and Zoann.

Following high school graduation, Merilou worked a brief period of time at McClellan's located on the Centerville Square. Upon her marriage to Ralph, she worked diligently at raising a family, as well as daily work on the family farm. Ralph and Merilou first started their farm operation near Confidence, Iowa. They later purchased land near Clarkdale, Iowa and spent the next several decades farming. Merilou could often be seen working the fields on her own tractor, a 350 Farmall. Furthermore, she never hesitated to rake hay or operate the harrow.

In her early adult years Merilou was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Centerville. She spent several years running the youth group at the church. She took great pride in the relationships she built with the youth over the years and in fact, some of the children from the youth group would often volunteer their time working at the Hamilton Family Farm. Later, Merilou would become a member of the Dale Church located north of Centerville. She was an active member of the Dale Church up until her passing.

Merilou was very passionate about fishing. She had a talent for the sport of fishing and never passed up an opportunity to go fishing with family and friends. Merilou cherished her time spent teaching those around her how to fish-family, friends and neighbors could only fish with worms when they were with her. Merilou also loved cooking, especially chocolate and pumpkin pies from scratch and homemade



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noodles.

She is survived by her five children, Zelda (Tom) Starr of Centerville, Wayne Hamilton of Centerville, Willis (Jessie) Hamilton of Osceola, Zelma (Jerry) Fry of Sunnyvale, Texas and Zoann Willis of Rockwall, Texas; twelve grandchildren; eighteen great grandchildren; two great, great grandchildren; and a sister, Gladys Hamilton of Rockford, Illinois.

Merilou was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Ralph; and two brothers, Norman and Leon White.

Funeral services will be held at 10 AM, Friday, February 21, 2014 at Lange Funeral Home and Crematory in Centerville with Pastor Gerald Campbell officiating. Burial will follow in the Mt. Ararat Cemetery east of Centerville on Hwy 2. A visitation will be held all day Thursday at Lange Funeral Home and Crematory with the family greeting friends from 6-8 PM. Memorial contributions have been designated to either the Dale Church or the Mt. Ararat Cemetery and may be given to Lange Funeral Home and Crematory, 1900 S. 18th St., Centerville, Iowa 52544. Condolences may be shared online at www.langefh.com.

Visitation

February 20, 2014 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Lange Funeral Home 1900 S. 18th St. Centerville, IA (641) 856-2000

Funeral Service

February 21, 2014 10:00 AM

Lange Funeral Home 1900 S. 18th St. Centerville, IA (641) 856-2000



Tribute Wall

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Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 1:58 PM



Thomas Funeral Home shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 2:30 PM



Anonymous posted:

Lots of good memories. Going to church riding horses Midge and Jan and of course making chocolate pudding. Thanks for the good memories... God Bless Posted by Cheryl Arnold - russell, IA - old neighbor friend of family February 23, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Leave a condolence or a memory. Posted by Cheryl Arnold - russell, IA - old neighbor friend of family February 23, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Aunt Merilou. How sweet you were. I will always have so many precious memories. No, you weren't really Phil and my Aunt, but our cousin, but you allowed us to be your nephew and niece anyway. We had so much fun at the farm.....coming out from town. Then, when everyone would come down from Rockford, oh, the fun we had. You used to put up with ALL of us kids...let us ALL spend the night. What fun we had. I remember Carol was down and we were just piddling around and I can still hear Carol singing.....Aunt Merilou....Oh how I love you.....and the little yellow baby chicks you raised and you would let us pet and hold them. You took me to the chicken coop to gather eggs with you. I was scared to death... that hen laying on her eggs, but you said she wouldn't peck me and she didn't! And ohhhh, those delicious green apples; but the bad tummy aches that night from eating so many. You had warned us but we ate them anyway. We all would take turns riding the horses with someone never getting tired of walking the horse around and around the house.....because we were still too young to ride alone. Then when we were all got older we rode and rode and rode your horses. So many many memories I can't list them all. Then when I got older and married, and had children of my own, you would let them stay with you so Kenny and I could ride the horses. You were such a jewel and I loved you so much. What I remember most and love you dearly for doing it, was at Momma's grave side you sat beside me and reached over and held my hand during the entire time. I am so happy I got to see you so many times when I was back in Iowa when Momma was in the hospital. Zelda would bring you out to the hospital with her to visit. I will always remember you as the loving Aunt you were, not only to me, but to Phil as well. I am so happy he was able to return to Iowa to tell you good-bye.... I know you will be having so much fun fishing in Heaven. Posted by Beverly Rogers - Charlotte, NC - Aunt February 22, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Wayne & Darrin, So sorry to hear about you Mom & Grandma. Please accept our sympathy for your loss. Posted by Tony & Wendy Argenta February 21, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

I am going to miss you Marilou and all that you did so perfectly. No one else can duplicate your cooking or your smiles. Bob and i loved bringing the girls down to your farm and letting them experience good ole farm living from the chicken and ducks to the horses. Ill never forget seeing you laugh when Christine just could not figure out why some of the baby chickens floated in the water and some of them didnt. These are just some of the memories I have from spending a few vacations on your farm with you and your family. I am looking forward to seeing you, Bob, Ralph and a lot of other good Christians some day. GOD bless you Marilou, and your family. Posted by Diana White - Stillman Valley, IL - Niece February 21, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I think the first time I met Marilou she was fixing a batch of catfish filets. Hers are the best I have ever had. I have fond memories of her she was truly a blessed part of my childhood. My dad is James Teater and we would visit when ever we were in Centerville. Posted by Karen Teater Lambert - Macomb, IL - Friend February 20, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Grandma, I've been thinking about all the memories over the past couple of days and the thing that keeps coming to me is you were definitely one of a kind. That will definitely be missed. Posted by Wanda Parcel - Grain Valley, MO - Grandaughter February 19, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Zelda was sorry to hear about your mom,will keep your family in prayers. Posted by Linda Grimm - Centerville, IA February 19, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Grandma oh the memories I have of you from my childhood clear up to my adulthood. The meals at Christmas and Thanksgiving. Francis and I are so grateful that Madison got to know you. She enjoyed the Friday night over at mom and dad's house. She would always come home on Saturday and tell us about the bickering that you and mom would have with Ellarose. She will miss you. I am going to miss the morning talks and chit chat that we would have when I came over to give get you up and get your your medicine and breakfast oh yeah can not forget the coffee. You would always say ' Don't forget my coffee. The memories will keep all of us going. We love you. Francis, Tammie & Madison Posted by Francis, Tammie & Madison Clupny - Centerville, IA - Grandchildren & Great granddaugh February 19, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I love you and I am going to miss you. Posted by Gladys Hamilton - Rockford, IL - sister February 19, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

. Posted by Gladys Hamilton - Rockford, IL - sister February 19, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

So sorry on the loss of Merilou. Please find comfort in the thought that NO ONE can replace mother, but God has placed angels in our lives to take on the roles of our mothers. We now have friends to get advice, cooking tips, hugs, and to share a laugh. I know how the heart hurts, and pray for comfort in the days ahead. Posted by Annabeth Seals Crowell - Forrest City, AR - friend February 19, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

My sympathy to all of Merilou's family. I will always remember her for her strong Christian faith and love for her family. You are in my prayers. Posted by Pauline Kozak February 18, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Aunt Merilou was an incredibly patient woman. She would take a bunch of us kids down to the lake and fish and laugh and smile....working with kids, I value the kindness and love she showed us. Not all have that talent, and she surely did. I will miss her smiling face and warm greetings when I am home in Iowa. She was greatly loved. Posted by Debbie Diederichsen - Manassas, VA - Great Aunt February 18, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

So many memories...summer vacations on the farm, making pancakes, baking brownies, riding horses. Aunt Meriou sitting on the banks of her ponds and Babbits pond fishing. She would sit for hours and after supper she would clean and fillet fish for hours all the time singing hymns; When the Roll is Called Up Yonder was one of her favorites. What a beautiful voice, the voice of an angel. Going to church every Sunday. Always a smile or a grin. She is a very special lady, loved by all. What a reunion she is having in heaven. A reunion with the White's, Houser's and the Hamilton's, and Jesus is right there with them. What a picnic. Can't you picture Aunt Merilou fishing with Peter, Andrew, James, John and Jesus. Heaven is sounding sweeter all the time. Posted by Buford and Carol Hicks - Byron, IL - Nephew and niece February 18, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. God will see you through. Glad I got to see her in August. Posted by Laquetta Goodman - Garland, TX - Friend February 18, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

My prayers are with you all. My condolences. Posted by Lana Rodgers Sarver - Frederick, MD - Friends with Zelma. February 18, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Aunt Merilou was always happiest when her family, immediate and extended were with her. She loved to fish and taught most of us how to sit still and catch lots of fish. I was never very good at the sit still part. She was patient and always kind We will all miss her very much and our prayers are with the family. Posted by Bob and Kathy Mellecker - Riverside, IA - niece February 18, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Merilou loved to talk about fishing and our family had many wonderful memories of her fishing tales. We also loved to visit when she was cooking her prize (fish) and it was so good!! We will miss her at the Hamilton reunion in the years to come. We all know though she will be enjoying herself by her favorite fishing spot. Love you, Aunt Merilou Posted by Dalene & Allen Hamilton & Edna - Albia, IA - family February 17, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I love you Grandma. I will always love your pumpkin pie and homemade noodles. No one can make them like you did. I will miss you. Posted by Patti Hill - fort dodge, IA - she is m grandma February 17, 2014

January 4 at 7:00 PM



Media

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Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 2:30 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Merilou by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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