

# *In Loving Memory*

After Bob retired they moved to Blaine Lake, SK. There they continued to enjoy pioneering, fishing, and picking berries. Building lasting relationships with many brothers and sisters there. But as Bob's health started to fail they moved to Edmonton, AB to live with Tony and Bev in 1999. Jean continued to live with them after Bob passed away in 2000 after 46 years of marriage. As her health deteriorated, it was necessary to move Jean into a care facility, and in recent years to a nursing home close to her grandson, Wesley and his wife, Corinn, where they took over her care until she passed away on February 7, 2021.

Jean will be greatly missed by daughters Bev (Tony), Roberta; and grandchildren Sandra (Leigh), Wesley (Corinn), Candace, Cheri (Buddy), Dallas (Shey), Kevin (Andrea) and Amber; great-grandchildren Colten (Emma), Mitchell, Jedda, Wyatt, Ivan, Isaac, Ty, Ethan, Dylan, Trey, Kai, and Taylor. Jean was predeceased by her husband Robert and grandson Heath; siblings Clifford, Laura and Irving. We look forward to welcoming her back in the Bible's promised resurrection, a hope Jean found comfort in when her loved ones passed away. Most likely we will find her looking for the best berry patch, enjoying creation and the animals and anticipating being reunited with all of her family.

*Job 14:13-15*

*13. "O that in the Grave you would conceal me, That you would hide me until your anger passes by, That you would set a time limit for me and remember me! 14 If a man dies, can he live again? I will wait all the days of my compulsory service Until my relief comes. 15 You will call, and I will answer you. You will long for the work of your hands."*



## ***Jean Ranson***

June 27, 1931 - February 7, 2021

Saturday, February 20, 2021 - 3:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting On Line

**DALMENY**  
*Funeral Home*

'Family Owned, Family Focused' - Stefan & Katrina Funk  
www.dalmenyfuneralhome.ca - (306-254-2022)

## Jean Ranson Life Story

Some of the adjectives those who knew and loved Jean Elsie Ranson would use to describe her are resilient, hard-working, talented, and fun-loving. Jean's life began on June 27th 1931, born to parents Gilbert and Dora Wolfe, who lived on the Mistawasis Reserve in Saskatchewan. She was born at home, a home which included her siblings Laura, Clifford, and later Irving.

At the tender age of seven, Jean was taken from her family, as many Indigenous children were, and taken to Manitoba and placed in Birtle Residential School. She talked very little about those difficult years away from her family. But this trauma didn't dampen Jean's resilient spirit. She was released from Birtle on September 30th 1947 after 9 years, at age 16.

Determined to move forward she later decided to join the army, but her acceptance required a physical exam which revealed she had tuberculosis. This resulted in her spending two years in the Prince Albert sanatorium. Never one to quit fighting, she recovered and trained to be a Licensed Practical Nurse, she was very proud of her certification all of her life. She landed herself a job at a doctor's office, where she worked hard and was able to purchase a home for herself, her mother, and her sister and her sister's two children. Although she was dealt many challenges, she rose to them all and accomplished a lot, especially for an Indigenous woman in those days.

In 1953, she met Robert (Bob) Ranson, a tugboat operator from Fort McMurray and friend of Jean's uncle. On May 11, 1954 they were married, and their adventurous life together began. Within two years, they had two children, Beverly and Roberta. Bob enjoyed trying new things, which meant moving around quite a bit with his wife and daughters. They lived in Ashcroft, Bella Coola, McLeese Lake, Brailorne, Nicola Valley, Britannia Beach, Mamquam and Brackendale. They stayed in Brackendale for 4 years, both girls went to school there and then they finally ending up in Chetwynd, BC in 1965.

Life was good, but after moving to the farm in 1967, it had its challenges like no electricity or running water. Jean spent some of her time picking and canning berries. And in the fall canned moose meatballs

and stew meat from the moose Bob would hunt. The family also would raise chickens and can the chicken, which was a family favorite. At one point, there was 300 2-quart jars of moose meat and chicken in the cellar, as well as blueberries, raspberries and saskatoons!

No matter where they were though, they always had fun. Jean had many interests and talents, including being outdoors picking berries, camping, fishing, snowmobiling and quadding; or playing one of the many musical instruments she enjoyed, she played piano, guitar, violin, accordion, and the harmonica. And she liked to sew and knit, every two years she would knit Bob a Siwash sweater. She also loved to play cards and was known to everyone she knew as a jokester and loved to tease. She continued to love these things well into her life, eventually sharing many memories doing these activities with all of her grandchildren in tow. But the most important legacy she passed down to her family was a spiritual heritage.

In 1964, Thelma Twiss, one of Jehovah's Witnesses, introduced Jean to Bible truths. Understandably, because of her experiences in Residential Schools, Jean was mistrustful of religion. But with perseverance from Art and Thelma, and then from Dick and Mary Anderson, both Bob and Jean were baptized, in 1967 and '68 respectively.

Jean's work ethic and love for people and her God, motivated her to engage in vacation pioneering as it was then called. This meant that for one month in the spring, Jean committed to spending 100 hours in the door to door ministry speaking to people about the Bible. April was known as spring break-up and that meant mud. This made service a challenge because most people lived in the country. So getting stuck was a frequent occurrence, which meant having to push a car out of the mud, occasionally abandoning shoes and socks in favour of bare feet to push the vehicle free.

Jean continued to work hard after her family left home. She worked as a switchboard operator for Chetwynd Taxi and also did some janitorial work for her son-in-law Lefty, which led to her taking over his business and growing it into a thriving cleaning company, Chetwynd Janitor Service. In time, Jean was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis and stomach cancer and Tony and Bev took over her business.