

Florence Ethel "Jackie" Birkeland



Jackie was born at Leslie, SD, on June 16, 1918, to Vincent W. and Minnie Ruth (Cunningham) Jeffries. She was the fourth of their nine children. She spent her early childhood on a ranch near Cherry Creek, SD. She loved riding and breaking horses with her dad. When Jackie was to enter seventh grade, the family moved to Dupree, SD. She continued on to graduate from Dupree High School in 1936. On August 8th of that year, she married Leonard Birkeland of Dupree. They traveled briefly to Washington to pick fruit and then returned to the Birkeland homestead south of

Dupree when Leonard's parents divided the house in half and took their part of it into town.

Jackie was best known by everyone as a nurturer. Her children all attest to her skill at teaching them how to care for animals that were injured, needed warming up, or were sick. A favorite memory of the Birkeland children is of the many evenings they spent being entertained by Leonard playing the accordion while Jackie danced a lively Charleston.

Florence Ethel "Jackie" Birkeland passed away on October 2, 2011, at the Sturgis Regional Senior Care Center.



Preceding her in death was her husband, Leonard; her brothers, Vincent C., Robert "Bud", and Kenneth "Kay" Jeffries; her sisters, Marjorie Nesheim, Eileen Garrett Thayer, Doris Pitsor Teall, Fay Peterson Harrold, and Betty Fay in infancy; son, Bruce; and special friend, Jack Pollard.

She is survived by her children, Betty Lawrence of Mobridge, Nancy (Billy) Fields of Sturgis, Neil (Vicki) Birkeland of Dupree, and Bart (Karen) Birkeland of Gregory. She is also survived by three sisters-in-law, Susan Birkeland, Inga Birkeland, and Cora Jeffries; 16 grandchildren; and 34 great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

In Loving Memory Of



Jackie Birkeland

1918 ~ 2011

The family invites everyone to a time of fellowship and lunch at Pioneer Hall following the committal service.

We thank you for your presence and condolences.



About Ben Adhem

About Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
And saw, within the moonlight of his room,
Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,
An angel writing in a book of gold:-

Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the presence in the room he said,
'What writest thou?' - The vision raised its head,
And with a look made of all sweet accord,
Answered 'The names of those who love the Lord.'

'And is mine one?' said Abou. 'Nay, not so,'
Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,
But cheerly still; and said 'I pray thee then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow-men.'

The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night
It came again with a great wakening light,
And showed the names who love of God had blessed,
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

A poem often recited
by Jackie to her children.

In Loving Memory Of

Florence Ethel "Jackie" Birkeland

Born

June 16, 1918
 Leslie, South Dakota

Died

October 2, 2011
 Sturgis, South Dakota

Memorial Service

Monday, October 10, 2011, at 11:00 a.m.
 UCC Church
 Dupree, South Dakota

Officiating

Pastor Pauline Webb

Greeting

Donald Nesheim
 Master of Divinity

Accompanist ~ Sue Starr

Soloist ~ Phoebe Lemke

Musical Selections

"Just A Closer Walk With Thee"
 "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"
 "In The Garden"
 "The Old Rugged Cross"

Inurnment

Dupree Cemetery

