

Helen Clara (Dell) Gaskins was unexpectedly born at home north of Vale, SD, and delivered by her grandmother, Amilia Dell, to Benjamin and Clara (Knodel) Dell. She started out life with a pet goat as she was lactose intolerant, her tin cup hung around the goat's neck, and when thirsty, she had the freshest milk.

As the daughter of migrant workers, she spent her life living in a variety of houses from sod to labor shacks to railroad box cars. All were one or two rooms complete with one or two apple boxes. Her younger life was a working one of hoeing/harvesting sugar beets, melons, beans, and potatoes. Her father believed no one was too young to work hard and he was eventually able to buy 80 acres. She remembered the German prisoners of war working the beet fields as German was spoken in their house.

Attending Vale school, she enjoyed being a cheerleader and part of the debate club, as going to surrounding schools was the best of adventures afforded her. During winter, when the rivers would freeze up, all the children would put on their ice skates and exhaust themselves racing up and down, only stopping to enjoy the bon fire and a cup of hot coco and treats. Summer evenings would find her with friends on melon gathering outings from neighbor's fields. She loved to sing and knew all the songs of the day.

Her first love was a drug store cowboy named Burnell Gaskins. His shiny new car, boots, and hat was enough for her to marry and leave the area moving to Rapid City where he worked in a cabinet shop and then for Bell Telephone Company. They moved to Cleghorn Canyon and she had two children, Sandra and Randy. Grandchildren came along, James, Billy Rose, Cody, Katie, Pro, Soka, Soking, and 15 great-grandchildren.

After the 1972 flood, they moved to various houses in the Rapid City area, finally settling north of Nisland on the ranch she always wanted. She loved to wagon train and would hitch up a team or ride a horse or mule enjoying the countryside and the people she met along the trail. She raised chinchillas, chickens, ducks, and geese. Dogs and cats were never far from under foot. She had multiple diseases that included Parkinsons, COPD, and Fybromyalgia eventually ended her life too soon.

Helen, 83, Belle Fourche, died Friday, April 12, 2019, at Rolling Hills Healthcare in Belle Fourche.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Burnell.

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



In Loving Memory

Helen Clara Gaskins

September 8, 1935 ~ April 12, 2019



In Memory Of ***Helen Clara Gaskins***

Date of Birth

September 8, 1935
Nisland, South Dakota

Date of Death

April 12, 2019
Belle Fourche, South Dakota

Celebration of Life

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 21, 2019
Kinkade Funeral Chapel
Sturgis, South Dakota

Memorial Video

"Sweet Hour of Prayer" - Radiance Acappella
"The Lord Is My Shepherd" - Dolly Parton
"I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" - Alison Krauss & The Cox Family

For everything there is an appointed season.
And a time for everything under

Heaven

A time for sowing, a time for reaping;
A time for sharing, a time for caring;
A time for loving,
A time for giving,
A time for remembering,
a time for parting.

You have made everything beautiful in its time
For everything you do remains forever.

"The wind is my pallbearer, carrying me on to my next journey."

