



Betty Sims-Solt

July 3, 1935 - March 23, 2021

Betty Sims-Solt was born and raised on the family ranch near Pastura, NM in 1935. Her parents, George Edgar Sims and Wahlecia Dell Blackwell Sims had five older sons before Betty arrived. Her five older brothers showed her the “ropes” of rodeo, and began entering into competitions by the year of 1950. By 1954, she managed to win and place in multiple NM State rodeos, leading her to the opportunity to compete in the High School National Finals in Louisiana, Montana, South Dakota and Texas where she also placed in several events.

Betty went on to attend college New Mexico A&M, (now known as NMSU) where she ended up winning the NIRA National All-Around cowgirl title in 1957, along with the National Barrel Racing Championship in 1957-58. She also joined the Girls Rodeo Association (now known as the Women’s Professional Rodeo Association) along with the Southwest Rodeo Association, winning the Barrel Racing title in 1958. She was a busy and ambitious woman, even helping to start the NIRA Alumni Association.

In college she earned a degree in Animal Husbandry, along with her teaching certificate that allowed her to teach for 33 years in the Roswell Public schools. Every now and then Betty would teach her classes how to rodeo. Everyone, including the other teacher were always so intrigued. After she retired, she decided to get the saddle back out and buy a small ranch North of Roswell where she ran a Cow-calf operation alongside her brother. Betty was also

quite creative, as she wrote and performed cowboy poetry that has been published. In 1990, she was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Ft. Worth and Las Cruces where you can still see her ranch symbol, and in 2003 she received the National Cowboy Culture Pioneer Woman Award.

Betty had one daughter, Georgia Solt Perry and two grandchildren Ethan Wayne Perry and Genna Wahlecia Perry.

No services will be held at this time. The family will have a private service at a later date.

Please take a moment to share a kind thought or memory with Betty's family at www.andersonbethany.com.

Betty's tribute was written in her honor by her family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Betty Sims-Solt*

December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *I met Betty in Greenough. MT.
Se was a great friend..I satvwithbher at the Cowgirl Hal ofvFame
Luncheons..*

Judy Morriss - July 23, 2022 at 10:36 PM



“ *L T lit a candle in memory of Betty Sims-Solt*



L T - May 14, 2021 at 10:41 PM



We were saddened to learn of the passing of my beautiful cousin Betty Lou Sims-Solt.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Georgia and all the Sims family. We called Betty's Mother, Wahlecia Dell Blackwell Sims, "Aunt Bob". She was my Dad, Tesla "Tess" "Bud" Blackwell's Sister.

I really enjoyed our family vacations to the Sims Ranch in New Mexico. It was always full of good surprises for us kids!

One very special time was when Betty and her brothers would saddle up their horses and take me, my sister (Mary Lou) and my brother (Johnny) to the old Train Depot for soda pop.

What fun times we all had!!

Betty knew I loved horses, so the next time we came to visit, she had a horse just for me to ride!

I also got to help her Mother, my Aunt Bob, bottle feed all the baby lambs in her kitchen when the mother sheep had twins and would only take care of one of them.

The last time I saw Betty and her 5 brothers was at a Blackwell/Crumley Reunion (1995?) in Lampasas, Texas. I have a Photo of all 6 of them together with my Dad, "Tess" and his older brother, MT (Uncle Pete/Blackie). It was the last time we were all together!

Again, our sympathy and prayers to you, Georgia, and the rest of the family.

*Love from Your Texas Cousins,
Luella Jo (Jo Jo) Blackwell-Tharp
and husband, Ken Tharp*

L T - May 14, 2021 at 10:43 PM



I wi miss her dearly

Judy Morriss - July 23, 2022 at 10:37 PM

CB

“ Mrs. Solt was a fabulous teacher at Berrendo Middle School that taught us so much more than what was in the text books. Condolences to her family and friends.

Cindy Fairchild Bradshaw - May 06, 2021 at 07:20 AM

DG

“ Mrs. Solt was one of the great influences of my life. There were a group of women at Berrendo Middle School in the late 70's that were tough and would not accept anything but perfection. Bird, Browning, Gwartney and Solt. In elementary school it was Phyllis Bennett. Wow. I look back now and say to myself, "What a great group of women". I was so blessed to get such a great education from these women. This will not be the last time we see Betty's greatness though. She stands strong with our Lord ready to redeem what is his.

David G - April 09, 2021 at 09:33 PM

LC

“ "Mrs.Solt" was my history teacher at Berrendo Middle School, and later my mom, Shirley Dwyer's very good friend, as my mom also taught at Berrendo. My mom enjoyed helping Betty feed cows, and I am lucky enough to have a Betty Solt custom-made backscratcher, which Betty made from bleached Longform rib bones, personalized with family names and brands. I will forever remember Betty, and I send thoughts and prayers to all who knew and loved her.

lori carter - March 29, 2021 at 03:12 PM

MS

“ Betty was a neat lady we used to help her work cows north of Roswell. She always had some neat stories to tell. She liked a good horse and sure loved her cows . Neat lady for sure .

matt stockton - March 29, 2021 at 10:16 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Betty Sims-Solt.*



March 29, 2021 at 08:29 AM



“ *My condolences to Betty's family and friends. All of her Sisters in the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame will certainly miss seeing her and visiting with her to share our old Cowgirl stories! She was an awesome person teaching in public schools for over 3 decades and continuing to teach others the Cowgirl Way throughout her entire life. God Bless Cowgirls.*

sherri Mell - March 28, 2021 at 05:42 PM



“ *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kpWIK3Vgl&list=RDGMEM6CZm14o9sc-Q22TIneLI8g&start_radio=1*



Dorothea Dell Sims - March 28, 2021 at 12:30 AM



“ *Dorothea Dell Sims lit a candle in memory of Betty Sims-Solt*



Dorothea Dell Sims - March 27, 2021 at 02:57 PM



Dorothea Dell

Aunt Betty you were a "rodeo legend;" and great educator. You did not only influence young cowgirls everywhere, but children as an exceptional educator. You are now with your family, and free of pain and heartache. God rest your beautiful and kind soul. And sincere condolences to Georgia; her daughter, and to Alan and Gary Sims whom cared for her endlessly. God Bless you all....

Dorothea Dell Sims - March 27, 2021 at 03:01 PM

BV

“ *Barbara V. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Betty Sims-Solt.*



Barbara V. - March 26, 2021 at 06:22 PM

JB

“ Sending my deepest condolences to Georgia and all of Betty's family and friends. Once I found out that I had relatives in New Mexico, my job took me to a different area and I have not been back in the SouthernNew Mexico area. I sure wish I had made the time to go meet Betty. I stood in amazement looking at the tribute to her at the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame. Trying to imagine her playing with her cousins, like I had played with mine. Betty and my grandfather, J.H. were cousins. My mother Ann, was the littlest sister to Betty, Jimmie Lou, Jan, and Johnny Boy. I have a small collection of Downy and Doreman Burns artwork and decided to decorate my office in Cowgirls. I wanted to include Betty in my tribute to Cowgirls since she is the closest to Cowgirl royalty that I knew. I asked my aunts if they had any pictures of Betty and they gave me the sweet picture added. Eventhough we never met, we wrote letters for a while and connected this way. I carry her close to my heart, and have always been proud of the barriers she broke, through her awards and accolades, and dedicating herself to teaching. She was really something! Georgia, I send my deepest condolences. Jane Byers-Angle



Jane Byers-Angle - March 25, 2021 at 09:24 PM

AT

*In Loving Memory of Betty on behalf of the Historical Society for Southeast New Mexico.
Love and blessings to the family!!!❤️❤️❤️*

Amy McVay Tellez - March 29, 2021 at 12:55 AM

JS

“ Dear Georgia ... so sorry to hear of Betty's passing. It has been a very long time since we visited but I always felt we had a lot in common with the cattle and rodeo. I always wished we had been able to be closer to our New Mexico relatives. I know you will miss her very much. I knew all of her brothers because they would stop by to visit when near Waxahachie. She came some too! Was very proud of her and her contribution to women's rodeo. She was a great lady and she influenced many people to work hard and be the best you can be. When we would talk she was always so proud of you Georgia. Thank you for taking good care of her and God Bless ... Johnny Boy Sims , 3019 FM 876, Waxahachie, TX 75167. If you are ever down this way give me a call (214-356-8805) ... Gary let me know about Betty's passing.

Johnny Sims - March 25, 2021 at 08:16 PM



“ I love you, Great Aunt Betty! I literally and physically looked up to you from when I was a little girl to even now even though our 'get togethers' were far and in between. I always enjoyed hearing stories and bits and pieces about you and your doings from your big brother, Grandpa Jim! Fly high, beautiful, and give Nini, Papa, and Grandpa Jim a kiss and a big ol' hug from me. I love you. Love, Sarah

Sarah Burckhard (Stevens)

Sarah Burckhard - March 25, 2021 at 10:14 AM

KS

I still have vivid memories as a young boy tagging along with you on the rodeo circuit. You were my hero because you were so talented, beautiful, and accomplished. She did so much to promote women in the sport of rodeo. She was a hard riding competitor at every level and most deserving of induction in the Cowgirl Hall of Fame. Out of the saddle she was a person of great quality, empathy and strength. She was adored and admired by family and friends alike. She had a full career as an educator after her rodeo days were over. I am sure she was a positive influence on a generation of children. We all will miss this wonderful woman of the West.

RIP Betty Boots

ken Sims - March 25, 2021 at 01:13 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Betty Sims-Solt.



March 24, 2021 at 04:22 PM

GS

“ Condolences to Georgia and all her family. May the Good Lord wrap His arms around you at this difficult time. Gene and I have so many wonderful memories through all the years we were involved with Betty and Georgia and the parents. Sending our love to you Georgia and would love to be with you at this time. Due to health reasons I am not able to do so. My thoughts and prayers are with you and yours.

Glenda L Smith - March 24, 2021 at 03:56 PM