



## Ruth Clem Quesenberry

October 19, 1921 - August 19, 2013

Funeral services will be held for Ruth Clem-Quesenberry, 91, of Roswell at 1 pm Thursday, August 22, 2013 at Gateway Church followed by a graveside at 3:30 pm at Twin Oaks Cemetery in Artesia, NM. Ruth passed away on Monday, August 19, 2013.

Vada Ruth Coleman was born to Rosa and Loyd “Doc” Coleman in Coryell County of Texas on October 19, 1921. She spent her early years surviving the great depression on the Coleman homestead in Levita, Texas before the family hit the road to follow Doc as he worked the Texas oil fields. Ruth, along with her sister Florene and their parents, lived many years in a large military-style tent before they went “big time,” building a nineteen foot travel trailer to continue their travels through west Texas and southeastern New Mexico.

The family lived for a time in Artesia, New Mexico where Ruth met and married Howard Dee “Jack” Clem just before the beginning of World War II. The faithful wife followed her husband from base to base during his training until he was shipped out to serve as a SeaBee in the Pacific front. Upon his return at the end of the war, Ruth and Jack settled in Artesia where she worked side-by-side with him as they established Clem Plumbing, opened Artesia’s first Firestone Store and brought Culligan Soft Water to the area; all while she raised three children and led many community groups. The couple was on the move once more, this time to Portales, New Mexico after their

youngest child graduated from high school. They briefly lived in Tucumcari, New Mexico before Jack retired and the two re-settled in Roswell, New Mexico.

After her husband's death in 1979, Ruth filled her time with grandchildren, singing tenor in a Senior Citizen Quartet and strumming the Ukulele until she met Don Quesenberry during a church service where, much to her surprise, Cupid struck again. The octogenarians shared a love for travel, so when Don asked Ruth if she'd prefer a wedding ring or a trip to Hawaii to celebrate their marriage, Ruth shouted for him to buy the tickets and she notified her children with a poem by email of the upcoming wedding, as she packed for ten days on sunny shores.

Ruth and Don continued with many travel adventures over the following years until diminishing health grounded them. Then, on Monday evening, August 19, 2013, Ruth quietly took her final journey from this earth to the arms of the Savior she both loved and served. Ruth leaves behind her husband of ten years, Don Quesenberry along with her children: Dekka Ruth House and her husband, Joseph House, Vicki Lee Shaw and her husband, Dewayne Shaw, and Lloyd Burr Clem and his wife, Bee J Clem. Ruth's grandchildren include Todd House and his wife, Geneva, Susan House, Amy D. Shaw-Jackson and her husband, Tripp, as well as Farrell Clem and his wife Sue, and Shelley Bristow and her husband Randy. She also enjoyed 7 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth Clem Quesenberry*

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December 29, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *I remember the day I met Ruth. I knocked on the door and heard her say from the other side, "oh God they sent us ANOTHER new one! Come iiiinnnn!" That was the day I met Ruth and Don as their Comfort Keepers Caregiver. Ruth was relieved when I told her that if she liked me she "got to keep me." Because of her I fell in love with taking care of people and helping them become independent again. 3 1/2 years later I'm still taking care of people, and I give her credit for that. After I moved away I didn't do very good at keeping up, and today I looked her up to maybe go visit since I'm in town. I'm sad see she passed. Ruth was a wonderful, funny, creative, strong woman. I can only hope of grow to be half the woman she was. Also, she's still the only person I know, besides myself, who read magazines back back to front. :-)*

*Leslie Moore-Fairfield  
1401 Gladys Drive  
Las Cruces NM 88001*

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**Leslie Moore-Fairfield** - June 17, 2014 at 12:50 PM

AJ

“ 5 files added to the album Photos of Ruth



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**Amy Jackson** - August 26, 2013 at 05:02 PM

AJ

“ 10 files added to the album Photos of Ruth



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**Amy Jackson** - August 26, 2013 at 04:52 PM

BD

“ Dekka,  
*I have great memory's of your mother when I worked for the cable TV system in Artesia, also while serving on the city council. She was a great friend.  
You have my sympathy.  
Bobby D.*

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**Bobby Durham** - August 26, 2013 at 01:17 PM

JH

“ So sorry to hear of the loss of your Mom. My prayers are with you and your family.

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**Janice Hokett** - August 24, 2013 at 09:34 PM

TH

“ We are so very sorry for the loss of Ruth. She was a very kind woman. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and Mr. Quesenberry.

*Mrs. Catherine Graves and Family*

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**Teresa Graves Heintze** - August 24, 2013 at 04:15 PM

TH

“ G'ma once explained to me to "think of God's word this way-it can be compared to our own legal system. When a subject has gone through our court system and ruled on, it sets a precedent and needs only to be cited or claimed by an attorney (us) before the Judge (God) for it to be considered "truth" and done. "If you know the truth, the truth will set you free" because then we can "claim" it in our own circumstances and know it's done. I thank the Judge for more blessings than I deserve but I'm also thankful that I've also had a great attorney arguing my case. She was a great prayer warrior.

*Todd House*

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**Todd House** - August 22, 2013 at 11:26 PM

DW

“ Dekka and family, I'm so sorry for the loss of your mother. What a sad time for all of you. Know you are not grieving alone - prayers, thoughts, and love are flowing your way during this sad, sad time.  
DeeBee

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**DeeBee Worthington** - August 22, 2013 at 08:24 PM

TP

“ Dekka & family,  
We offer our condolences and will hold youall in our prayers.  
Tom (Tommy) Parrish

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**Thomas Parrish** - August 22, 2013 at 04:24 PM

WL

“ Who do you call? Aunt Ruth! Believe me she knew and could do like none other. A very special lady!

*Thinking of you ... Dekka, Lloyd, Vickie*

Wayne

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**Wayne Lapsley** - August 22, 2013 at 11:15 AM

PL

“ You know how there are people that come in your life that say or do something that is 'everlasting' in your heart? Well, Aunt Ruth was one of my people! She made a trip out to California and spent the night at our house in Bakersfield on her way to see her grandson. She saw right through my fake smile and made a special time to catch me alone and take my hands and pray for me ( the move to California was not a easy one for me). I can't ever remember a time in my life that I have felt such peace, strength, and comfort~~~I give all the glory to God for sending His angel, Aunt Ruth to me!! And today I am thanking God for placing me on her front porch in Roswell to give her a hug and thank her. She is a everlasting part of my heart!  
Looking forward to seeing you again Aunt Ruth!

*Pauletta*

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**Pauletta Lapsley** - August 22, 2013 at 11:00 AM

SB

“ The thing that first comes to my mind about your mother is how beautiful she was. And close behind is the memory of how kind she was. I know this is a terribly difficult time, and my prayers are with you. Sandra Monroe Baxter

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**Sandra Monroe Baxter** - August 22, 2013 at 09:42 AM

KB

“ Dekka and family;  
Your mother was a lovely lady; I am sad for you.  
Best wishes,  
Ken Banister

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**Ken Banister** - August 22, 2013 at 09:11 AM

MB

*Met Ruth while working at the Sheriffs Department many years ago. Sweetest of Ladies. Praying for your loss.*

*Mary Sims-Beckham*

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**Mary Beckham** - September 08, 2013 at 01:37 AM

RB

*“ Aunt Ruth and Mom drove to Texas years ago to see the Shaws and us. She agreed to show me how to make chicken and dumplings. I talked her into a double batch for leftovers and those were by far the best dumplings I have ever had; however, after cleaning up flour from every inch of my kitchen, I decided never to try it on my own! Mine would never have compared anyway. She put the extra LOVE in hers. God bless you Aunt Ruth.*

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**Reba (Lapsley) Bianchetti** - August 22, 2013 at 07:29 AM

JR

*“ What a beautiful lady... Even as a child I thought that she was so beautiful...and a sweet Mom. I am so sad. She certainly lived life to the fullest...I am so glad that I got to see her that last time. I am sad for your family.*

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**Jan Rowley** - August 22, 2013 at 06:41 AM

MK

“ Momma Ruth as I affectionately called her came into my life at the age of five when we moved into the house next door. Dekka and I became fast and close friends and our friendship remains true to this day. Momma Ruth was my second Mom, my hairdresser, my confident, my friend and a guardian angel on earth. My wedding day would not have been complete without Momma Ruth and her careful placement of my veil. Lessons learned from her are two numerous to mention, but I will always remember her as the classy lady that gave me my best friend. Heaven blessed you Momma Ruth. I will miss your laugh and love.  
Mary Alice Gill King

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**Mary Gill king** - August 22, 2013 at 12:19 AM

MM

“ I remember Ruth as I was a child and teenager growing up in Artesia. She was part of our neighborhood and church. What a wonderful lady! Please know you are in my thought and prayers.  
Many Blessings! Love, Mary Collier Moore

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**Mary Collier Moore** - August 21, 2013 at 10:09 PM