



Barbara Lucille Farris

December 30, 1920 - July 21, 2015

Barbara Lucille Battles Farris

STRATFORD - Lucille Battles Farris 94, passed away Tuesday July 21, 2015, at a local nursing home. Services and a celebration of her life will be at 1 p.m. Saturday July 25, 2015, at Asher First Baptist in Church Asher. Burial will be in Vista Cemetery, Konawa.

Viewing will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday at DeArman/Pickard Funeral Home in Stratford. Burial will be at Vista Cemetery, east of Asher.

Lucille was born Dec. 30, 1920, near Ashland. She was the seventh of 10 children born to George Washington Battles, Sr. (1887-1962) and Mineola Christian Battles (1890-1972). "Sis" was preceded in death by her parents, one sister and five brothers, her husband of 62 years - William Loyd "Red" Farris; and, her son-in-law Jerry Dixson.

She is survived by a younger sister Pauline Battles Dove and a younger brother George Washington Barrles, Jr.; both of Duncan. Her daughter, Shirley Farris Dixson of Asher; her son, Keith Farris and his wife Jackie of Ada. Four grandchildren: Dewayne Dixson and his wife Dusty of Asher; Ryan Farris and wife Dianna of Norman; Darin Dixson of Asher, and, Jaime Farris Kerecman and husband Kyle of Bartonville, Texas; and, two step-granchildren: Donna

Kidd Minor of LaCenter, Washington and Michele Kidd Neil of Jones, Oklahoma.

Also, eight great-grandchildren: Keevin Dixson, Derrick Dixson, Shelby Dixson, Kaythrine Dixson, Dalton Dixson, Nate Farris, Kolt Kerecman and Cassidy Kerecman; and three step-great-grandchildren: Kenny Neil, Renee Bailey and Emily Neil. Plus, numerous nieces and nephews.

As a child, Lucille helped with the usual farm work of that era; such as "chopping" and picking cotton and taking care of the farm animals. In 1937 the family moved to Duncan, Oklahoma — where she graduated high school.

By that time her father and most of her older brothers were training and racing Thoroughbreds. During the winter of 1940, her father returned to Duncan for the winter break from racing and was accompanied by W.L. "Red" Farris who was a jockey who rode many of George's horses in races; and, ultimately became Lucille's husband.

As World War II loomed, Lucille and "Red" moved to Tulsa where they were married...Both worked for awhile in an aircraft factory in Tulsa. As expected, "Red" was drafted in the U.S Army and first served in Colorado in the remounts - preparing mules for their jobs.

Later he served as a truck driver in the China-Burma-India theater until the end of WWII. He was welcomed home in January, 1946 by Lucille and daughter Shirley, who had been born shortly before he went overseas.

In 1947 the family moved to the Sky Ranch, south of Oklahoma City, where they managed the operation for Dr. Earl D. McBride, which included preparing his Thoroughbreds for racing.

During this time, Lucille was mostly a housewife and concentrated on raising their two children. After leaving the Sky Ranch, the Farris family moved to Kansas for a few months and then to the Stratford, Gaar Corner, Vanoss area. In 1959 the family bought a place south of Asher where they continued with a cattle operation and training Thoroughbreds.

By this time, Lucille was a vital element in the training of the horses, "Red" broke and rode the horses. Lucille took care of the other necessary tasks: cleaning stalls and grooming the horses.

By 1960 Lucille, Shirley and Keith were spending summers in East St. Louis at Cahokia Downs and Fairmount Park.

During the 1960's, 70's and 80's lots of races were won in Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Louisiana. The work was hard; but, neither "Red" nor Lucille would have traded it for anything. "Red" admitted they would not have had as much success if not for Lucille's assistance. She was also licensed as a trainer in Colorado and Illinois...Those were the family's "good ole days." One can imagine when Lucille's brothers who trained horses visited, stories were much better than the most outrageous fishing tales.

After Lucille retired from the racetrack, she enjoyed going to the casinos and trying to beat the machines. However, Lucille never lost her interest in racing. She and Keith enjoyed many weekends watching races on TVG and HRTV - if they was a gray in a race, that's the one she pulled for. She was fortunate to see America's 12th Triple Crown winner.

She could not pick out the horse during the race but could tell you the trainer was: "old white head" was what she always called Bob Baffert.

DeArman-Pickard Funeral Home,

Stratford

Cemetery Details

Vista

Konawa, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *Barbara Lucille Farris*

October 05, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *Thoughts and prayers to you and your family Jaime! Your grandmother sounds like she was one amazing woman!!*

Traci Covey - July 23, 2015 at 10:22 AM