

*The heart that quilts knows, oh, so well
the peace that can be found, as needle
meets with fabric, for there is no
sweeter sound. Whether quiet piecing
done by hand or on our sewing
machine, there's rhythm to our
stitches as we sew along each seam.
Those stitches tell the story of our lives
as they unfold as we think of quilts
that Grandma made with stories left
untold. The humdrum of our daily
lives grows elegant and grand, when
we start to cut the pieces, then stitch
the fabric in our hands. And whatever
is the reason for the quilts we piece
and sew, and whoever is the maker,
there is one thing that we know. Each
quilt is full of memories, and is a
treasured thing. If quilts could talk,
imagine how some quilts would surely
sing! For some quilts are sewn in
happy times and others when we're
sad, and some are sewn in laughter
and others when we're mad. Some
quilts are sewn for beauty, a quilt
made just for "show", but the heart of
the true quilter is the one who really
knows~ That no matter how the quilt
is stitched, we leave our mark in time.*

*This Legacy of Stitches...
is what we leave behind.*

In Loving Memory Of Clara Cundiff

Born to Lucy (Coon) and Lester Putnam
December 20, 1930 ~ Sidney, Montana

Called Home to Heaven
January 18, 2024 ~ Sidney, Montana

Funeral Services
Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 2:00 pm
People's Congregational Church ~ Sidney, Montana
Luncheon to Follow

Officiating
Pastor Richard Evans

Casketbearers
Alex Cundiff Travis Cundiff
Brad Cundiff Kasey Burt
Troy Mealey Bill Cundiff III
Troy Cundiff Cash Cundiff

Honorary Casketbearers
All of Clara's Beloved Family and Friends

Ushers
Tiegen Cundiff Jerren Jensen Jim Ellingson

Music
"Old Rugged Cross" "Amazing Grace"
Sharon Whited ~ Soloist Sally Borg ~ Accompanist

Obituary Reading
Kelly Ellingson

Scripture Reading
Carrie Burt

Final Resting Place
Sidney Cemetery ~ Sidney, Montana

Arrangements By
Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home ~ Sidney, MT



***In Loving Memory Of
Clara Cundiff***

December 20, 1930 - January 18, 2024



Clara Grace (Putnam) Cundiff was born December 20, 1930, to Lester and Lucy (Coon) Putnam in Sidney Montana. She was raised in the Girard area and educated at Brorson School.

On May 22, 1948, she was united in marriage to William James Cundiff, Sr. They farmed and ranched only a few miles from where she was brought up. It was there that they raised three rambunctious children, and she stayed busy as a homemaker and dedicated wife. As many farmwives are, she was a ready "farmhand", doing chores, plowing fields, and driving tractors. Clara was a 4-H leader for all three of her kids and a few of her grandkids. During that time, she taught sewing, cooking and helped kids keep track of the beef records. She made sure each Sunday the kids made it to Sunday school and afterwards there would be a family gathering to share a meal, often with the Brose or Wick family. We have heard mention that she had sewn matching "outfits" for herself, Bill Sr., and all three of the kids for the Montana Centennial celebration.

During her time on the farm there are many memories of her cooking for large gatherings including brandings, moving cattle and large family functions. Her famous Hobo Stew and Spanish Rice could not be replicated. Many in the

family tried. There had to be a secret that she didn't share with anyone. She reassured each of us that it was very simple but somehow it wouldn't turn out anywhere close to hers. She also enjoyed hosting many card games and taught a lot of the younger kids how to play pinochle.

On March 28, 1991, her beloved husband passed away. Her love and dedication to him carried on and, in fact, the symbol of their marriage could still be seen on her left ring finger right up to the day she was called home. This love is inspiring and something most of us will never forget. After Bill passed away, she sold the house and leased the land. She then made the big adventure into city life and moved into Sidney. Many more memories were made in that home. In 2014 she was moved into the Extended Care facility in Sidney. She was cared for by some wonderful people and made many friends while she was there. Somehow, she managed to carry on sewing activities and hosted the cousins luncheon each month. The highlight of her stay was becoming "resident of the year" in 2017 where they proudly crowned her and threw her a big party.

Her greatest joy was loving on her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Each grandkid and

great-grandkid were gifted a quilt, stitched with love and patience and an occasional pin she missed. Her love of sewing wasn't strictly in her quilting. She also sewed vests, western shirts, dresses, stuffed animals, quillows, pillowcases, table runners and a variety of other items. Stories have been told of boxes and suitcases of cereal, fruit snacks and other favorite food items given to the great grandkids when she stopped for a visit. She also attended as many sporting and academic events as possible.

On January 18, 2024, Clara was called home to heaven. The memories we carry with us and the legacy of love that was left behind are similar to the quilts she has made. They are all beautiful scraps of color but by the tender stitch of her hand have become something that will keep us warm for many years to come.

Clara is survived by her children Mary (Bob) Williams of Weatherford TX, Bill (Pat) Cundiff, and Frank (Sharyl) Cundiff both of Sidney, MT; sister Nancy Obergfell of Sidney; 6 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Lester and Lucy Putnam; husband Bill Cundiff, Sr.; brother-in-law Jerry Obergfell; and nephew John Obergfell.

