

Berna Mary (Luther) Jones

Berna's original name was Mary Berna Brice. She was born on September 4, 1922 in Darlingford, Manitoba to parents Pearl and Harry Brice. Known always as "Berna," she was a smart, good-natured, and vivacious child. She had an older sister named Joan and soon her three younger siblings came along: Doreen, Carol, and Bill. The family moved to Lawson, Saskatchewan when Berna was young and then eventually settled in Riverhurst, where Berna lived until she turned 18.



Pearl and Harry Brice.

She went through her preteens and teenage years during the dirty thirties. These times shaped her outlook--she knew how to manage on a limited budget. Later financial shortages in modern times were never at the level of hardship that she experienced as a child.



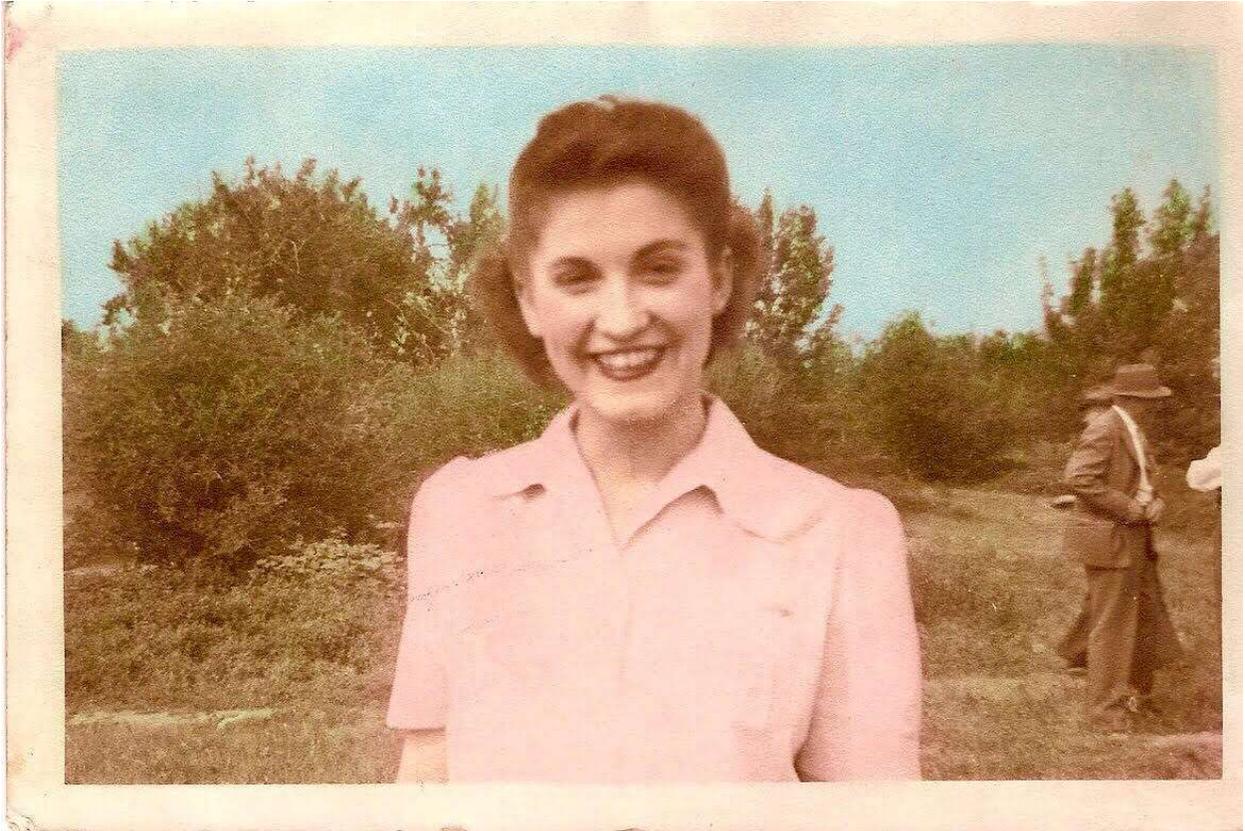
Berna with her Siblings.

Harry Brice was a prominent member of the Riverhurst community during Berna's childhood. Harry was a longtime Scout Master and eventually "Harry Brice Scout and Guide Camp" — an area of Palliser Regional Park — was named after him. Their family had spent a lot of time in Palliser Park, so this is a fitting tribute.



Teenage Berna.

Berna did well in school was very popular with the boys in her grade. Despite these distractions, Berna graduated Grade 12 in 1940 and moved to Regina. She was later joined by her sister Carol. There the girls lived with "Aunt" Alma, a friend of their Uncle Bill's. Berna always wanted to go to University, but her family could not afford to send her when she was young. Instead, she attended Secretarial School. During this time, Berna sadly lost two boyfriends in World War II.



Berna in her Early 20s.

In the mid-1940s, Berna and Carol moved to Saskatoon. Carol was moving for school and Berna decided to tag along. There, the women boarded together. Family friends The Spencers lived nearby and also boarded students, including a handsome young accounting student named Emerson Luther. When Berna met Emerson, she was immediately smitten. She adored him. The couple was married in 1946.



Emerson and Berna's Wedding.

Emerson worked as a Chartered Accountant who owned his own business. After marrying, Berna and Emerson built a house on 5th Street in Saskatoon. Their first child, Brian, was born in 1950 and was followed by John in 1952. The family then moved to North Battleford, where they had their third child, Vivian, in 1955.

The Luthers moved again in 1956, this time to Lloydminster. They had their fourth child, Glen in 1958. They also purchased a small cabin at Sandy Beach Regional Park that year, a cabin which remains in the family to this day and is a cherished gathering spot for the Luther family. Berna and Emerson's youngest two children were also born in Lloydminster: Wendy in 1960 and Sheila in 1964.



Luther Family Photo.

Berna worked as a Church Secretary at Grace United Church from 1966 to '71. Her faith was important to her and her children attended Sunday School each week. Over the years she was active in choir, outreach committee, Sunday school, explorers, adult club, and women's groups. A church friend, Maureen Cline, mentioned Berna's willingness to give of her time, enthusiasm, friendship, home, generosity, keen mind, and good ideas. Berna had the ability to keep her religion close to her heart while remaining open-minded and progressive. As the United Church became more liberal, so did Berna.

In 1969, in a tragic turn of events, Emerson died suddenly at age 47 of a heart attack. In order to afford raising six kids on her own, Berna sold Emerson's accounting business. Berna's sisters were great help and support during this difficult time.

In 1973, Berna and her three youngest moved back to Saskatoon. She worked there at the Math Department at the University of Saskatchewan. At this time, she also became involved in St. Paul's

United Church in Sutherland. She supported each of her children to get a university degree or a similarly recognized profession, knowing she herself did not have the opportunity. It was somewhat of a non-negotiable, and as a result they all achieved this. She was always modest about the accomplishments of her offspring. While behind the scenes she had high expectations that she instilled in her children--firmly encouraging each to achieve at their academic pursuits.

In 1975, Berna married Greville Jones, who had also recently been widowed. He was a kind and sweet man with pioneering convictions that he lived by. Grev had seven children of his own: Marilyn, Vivien, Rosalyn, Carol, Alan, Valerie, and Brian. Grev had been a soldier in World War II and had been a prisoner of war in Germany during that time. He later worked at the Farm Credit Corporation until his retirement.



Berna and Grev's Wedding.

After they married, Grev and Berna bought a house on Mount Allison Crescent in Saskatoon, where they lived with each of their three youngest children (who all, coincidentally, attended the

same high school, Evan Hardy Collegiate). Berna and Grev travelled a lot in their 27 years of marriage. When Grev retired, he bought a motor home. They enjoyed cross-country skiing, walking, gardening and bird watching. They also built a cottage at Coteau Beach on Lake Diefenbaker. They greatly enjoyed spending their summers there.



Berna and Grev with their Children at their 25th Anniversary Party.

The couple moved several times after their children moved out, and eventually ended up at Luther Riverside Terrace, a senior living community. In the year 2000, Berna and Grev celebrated 25 years of marriage. Grev suffered several strokes before passing away in 2002 when Berna was 80 years old. After his death, Berna moved into an apartment at McClure Tower. She switched churches and became involved in McClure United Church, located in the same building. She enjoyed singing alto in their choir for many years. In 2013, Berna moved to the higher-care facility in the same complex, Amy McClure House.

On the Luther side of her family, Berna has 10 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. On the Jones side, she has 14 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren. In the summer of 2012, the family celebrated with Berna for her 90th birthday party. The sheer number of people at this event showcases just how many lives Berna positively affected.



Berna with Many of her Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren at her 90th Birthday.

In October of 2016, Berna moved to Circle Drive Special Care Home, where she resided until her death on May 16, 2025. She enjoyed her home and really appreciated the staff that worked with her daily. Caregivers at the home often commented on Berna's positive outlook and how it made it particularly rewarding to work with her. Berna maintained an active life in her '90's being visited by family often and getting out and about in Saskatoon. As she aged, she suffered some health problems, but she continued to be the lovely, positive, and witty person she always was. She would commonly remark "I don't think I can complain because I have a good life." Berna was a positive force in the world and in many people's lives.



Berna at her 95th Birthday Party.

Berna was predeceased by her first husband, Emerson Luther (married 1946, died 1969), and her second husband, Greville Jones (married 1975, died 2002). She was also predeceased by two sisters and their husbands, Joan (Stewart) and Carol (Bob); sister-in-law Arlene; brother-in-law Doug; and daughter-in-law Mary.

Berna will be deeply missed by her six children, Brian, John (Donna), Vivian (Tom), Glen (Sherry), Wendy (Pat), and Sheila (Randy); ten grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; her sister, Doreen; and her brother, Bill. She will also be fondly remembered by her stepfamily: seven children, Marilyn, Vivien, Rosalyn, Carol, Alan, Valerie, Brian; fourteen grandchildren; and eighteen great-grandchildren. She will be held in the hearts of countless other relatives and friends.

A memorial service will be held on September 13 at McClure United Church, Saskatoon. For more information, contact Saskatoon Funeral Home (mail@saskatoonfuneralhome.com). Memorial donations may be made to two nonprofits in Saskatoon: The Mustard Seed and Saskatoon Children's Choir. Berna's family sends a special thank-you to the staff at Circle Drive Special Care Home as well as her personal caregivers from Home Instead.

