



Lucy Van Bibber (Fulton/Sanderson)

May 11, 1926 - March 12, 2024

It is with great sadness we share the news that our amazing mother Lucy Van Bibber (Fulton/Sanderson) passed away on March 12th at the age of 97 at Whitehorse, Yukon. Lucy was the third youngest of 14 children born to Ira & Eliza Van Bibber; she was a devoted and wonderful mother, wife, sister, aunt, grandmother, and great grandmother.

Lucy will be greatly missed by her daughter Barbara and granddaughter Melek Fulton, her son Daryl and daughter-in-law Bernadette Fulton, granddaughter's Heather, Joy (Kyle), Shellby (Dylan), Chantel (Jared), and grandson Zachary (Susanna), and daughter Gail (Tony) Klein, step-granddaughter Michelle (Bruno) Sartorel, step-grandson Dwayne (Patricia) Clark, step-daughter-in-law Myrtle Anne Clark, 9 great grandchildren and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Lucy had an extraordinary and full life. She was born on May 11th, 1926 at Mica Creek at Pelly Crossing. Lucy was raised hunting and fishing with her own dog team and trap line until she moved to Dawson at the age of 16. She worked at St Mary's hospital until moving to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan to take a nurses aid course. Lucy then moved to Fairbanks, Alaska to look after her Uncle Theodore during the war. Lucy would go to dances at the military base. After the war Lucy moved to Calgary and took a business course. She worked at Calgary Power until she married Donald Fulton and had to resign for being married. They lived in Calgary for 8 years raising 4 children Gloria/Gail, Daniel, Daryl and Barbara. The family moved to Cranbrook in 1957 and Lucy lived there for 62 years.

Lucy had overwhelming grief with the loss of her son Daniel (Danny) in 1973.

In 1983 Lucy married James (Ed) Sanderson. Together they embarked on many happy adventures including annual trips to the Yukon every summer to visit family, enjoyed river trips, painting and selling her art work at Discovery Days in Dawson. In 2019 she moved back to the Yukon to be with family and friends. Lucy was a remarkable artist, who loved painting, doing crafts, and making jewelry at lapidary. She was a member of "the breakfast club" and "birthday club." She enjoyed playing darts, bowling, dancing on Tuesdays in Kimberley and she was an avid reader and would exchange books with friends. Lucy loved picnics and berry picking with friends and family and took immense pleasure in long drives up the Wildhorse, Bull River and Gold Creek. Lucy loved to travel! She thought nothing of going to Antarctica alone at 80 years old and walking among the penguins and that same year dipping her feet in the Arctic Ocean! Lucy loved country music and was thrilled to go to the Grand Ole Opry; she visited Times Square in New York City, the Smithsonian in Washington DC and the beaches of Maui with family. She embarked on a Caribbean cruise from New Orleans for her granddaughter Heather's wedding, flew to Playa del Carmen, Mexico for her grandson Zach's wedding and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico to her granddaughter Shellby's wedding and, she made numerous trips to Virginia Beach to visit her Van Bibber cousins. Lucy and Barb did a road trip over Top the World highway from Dawson to Fairbanks, Alaska; she showed Barb where she lived, worked and shopped. Touring Mt. Denali National Park and on to Valdez where they took a boat cruise on Prince William Sound to Columbia Glacier seeing whales, seals and floating icebergs was yet another high light. Lucy loved going to the rodeo and chuck wagon races at the Calgary Stampede when she lived in Calgary, and she made one final trip in 2023 at 97! Lucy enjoyed a drink of Crown Royal and ginger ale while watching Coronation Street in the evening. She had many friends and family who loved her unique personality, carefree spirit and kind heart. Lucy was full of joy and vitality, "she sparkled like champagne" and will be missed by all.

A celebration of life is planned for Saturday May 11th, 2024, at 11:00 am at McPherson Funeral Chapel in Cranbrook, B.C. and at Pelly Crossing, Yukon on July 13th, 2024 at 2:00pm.

Memorial donations can be made to the Cranbrook Senior's Hall (Lapidary) at seniorshall11@gmail.com or MacBride Museum Whitehorse at pcunning@macbridemuseum.com