

Phyllis Louise Tedsen

October 28, 2021



Phyllis Louise Tedsen was born May 31, 1925, to Willis and Dolorosa Hight of Smith River CA. She attended Smith River elementary School and graduated from Del Norte High School in 1943.

A short war-time marriage produced three children. Frederick, (died at birth), Sharon and Becky Wheatley.

In December of 1951, Phyllis married the love of her life, Harry Dean Tedsen. Harry began purchasing a dairy farm from his Mother and step father (Nis and Antonia Jepsen) in 1949. He built a home on the property to accommodate his bride and her two little daughters. It is in that home that Phyllis lived out rest of her life on Earth, which ended September 5, 2021.

As a “Farm Wife”, Phyllis’s job was to cook three large meals per day, serving up to fourteen workers and family members at a sitting. In between, she loved building a treehouse, sand box, slide or playhouse for her children, the cousins and eventually the resident dairy worker’s children.

Her passion was local history. As a member of the Del Norte Historical Society, she enjoyed volunteering in the museum and cherished the lasting relationships she developed through that membership. Phyllis had the

honor of Joining longtime friend Bob Bolen, in the rescue, relocation, and renovation of Redwood School #2. She became curator for school tours and during the Del Norte County Fair.

Mrs Tedsen was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and Son's-in-law, Lawrence Evers (Sharon) and Raymond Sanders (Becky). Her sister and Brother-in-law, Hollis and Maxine Rhodus and their son, Carl. She leaves behind her beloved niece, Myrna Rhodus Floyd. She is survived by daughters, Sharon Coppy (Jack) of Darby MT, and Rebecca Sanders of Meridian, ID. And her son and spouse, Robert and Linda Tedsen of Fort Dick. She had six grandchildren, and a large number of grand and great grandchildren.

Just before Phyllis's 96 birthday, an infection interfered with her short-term memory. That and the recent loss of her sister, nephew and sweet little Jack Russel, Taz, turned her desire toward Heaven. She was able to live at home with the incredible assistance of Robert and Linda Tedsen, Sharon Gillespie, and Cathy Kubirck.

All that knew Phyllis, described her as a character. That will be the theme of a celebration (FUN-eral) of her life. Details and date will be announced in the near future.

Donations in her name may be made to Del Norte Historical Society or Smith River United Methodist Church.