



Leola Lundstrum

April 5, 1924 - June 2, 2017

Leola Dora Lundstrum, formerly of Nashville, MI, passed away after a long struggle with Alzheimer's on June 2, 2017 at Sugarbush House in Flint. Leola was born on April 5, 1924 to Sherman Leroy Tidd and Delilah Bell Kelley in Grand Ledge. Leola finished the 10th grade, and then graduated from the Melba Academy of Beauty Culture, in Lansing. She worked as a beautician in Lansing near the Capitol, where she would give manicures to politicians and hairstyles to their wives.

She married the love of her life, Gerald Raymond Lundstrum on September 9, 1944 at the People's Church in East Lansing. Leola was a dedicated mother and farm wife, supporting her husband in his agricultural endeavors, including driving tractor herself. She was a maple syrup producer with her husband, and made many dishes with maple syrup, including pie, popcorn balls, and spring lettuce topped with maple syrup and brown sugar.

She loved hummingbirds and flowers, especially gladiolus, rhododendrons, and peonies. She had an affinity for a particular shade of blue, and painted many things that color. She decorated extensively for Christmas and hand-made Christmas ornaments which she would give to friends and family.

Leola was preceded in death by her husband, parents, her two sisters, Leona Deyarmond and Mildred Root, brother Sherman Valentine Tidd, and son in-

law Richard Graham. She is survived by children Clifford (Mary) Lundstrum and Vickie Graham; grandchildren Russell (Jenni) Lundstrum, Autumn (Darren) Bagley, Cynthia (Ian) Vissers; and 7 great-grandchildren, Brandon and Emily Lundstrum, Lonna and Orion Bagley, and Jack, Sam, and Ryan Vissers. Leola was loved by members of her blended family, Jacqueline (David) Sandiford and Allison, Amanda and Molly Sandiford.

Memorial services will be held at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte on Friday, June 16 at 11:00 a.m. Coffee hour, to share memories of Leola will begin at 10:00 a.m. A luncheon will follow the service at Eaton Area Senior Center.

The family wishes to make a special thanks to both Sugarbush House and Heart-to-Heart Hospice for their loving care of Leola. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Leola on her Tribute Page at www.PrayFuneral.com. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Memorial Service

JUN **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W. Seminary St.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall

RS

“ *and she put up with the meetings of the Maple Valley Fan Peoples Herman's Hermits Fan Club and never asked what it was!*

rae swan - January 20, 2020 at 07:55 PM

LM

“ *Dear Vickie
This is Lucy Martin, your teacher long ago. Bob and Hopie Duddles were my aunt and uncle, and I remember your mom and dad so well. Your dad came up north to their sugar bush and for deer season, too. And YOU, and Richard... It has been so long. We live in Phoenix now and I just saw the on-line Hastings Banner about your mom's death. Praying that you are well. I know Richard has been gone awhile, too.
Take care and know that you are in my prayers.
Lucy*

woddess@yahoo.com

Lucinda Martin - June 22, 2017 at 08:29 PM

“ Four Days

By Vickie Graham

6/18/17

I would give everything to have four more days with Mom in 1977. She would be 53, before the Alzheimer's took her away. I would be 26 with a new baby. These are the days I would wish for.

One more day to decorate for Christmas with Mom (always on my birthday, Dec 8), before the tree turned to all blue lights. That didn't happen until I was out of the house several years. I guess she felt all the colors of bulbs should be represented. (Or maybe replacement bulbs only came in multi-color?) Mom started replacing the burned out bulbs with only blue when it was just her & Dad. Of course one would never waste by replacing them all at once before they burned out. I remember a few years when it was mostly blue with a few reluctant hanger-on'ers of other colors.

Among the childhood memories are the tall pillar candles made with whipped white wax put on old milk cartons (the old square wax paper type). It was like she frosted a cake. I remember them as white but there may have been a little glitter mixed in!

She also found directions in a magazine for stars made out of straws. (I still have the clipping) This was back when straws were paper and only white. They were made by running thread through the straws and building a 3-D star shape. It was very large and very spectacular in my eyes. I think it was so big and non-packable that it never made it to a second Christmas. I have often thought of trying to re-create one but get stopped when all I find are plastic straws, often striped and bendy. Those just are not the same and will not do.

One more day of Mom telling me of growing up with Aunt Lonie. (Her sister, Leona, but so named because I could not pronounce Leona when I was little.) Picking asparagus to sell, going fishing with their "Pop" at the cottage (Mom told me they mostly played among the boats on the shore as Pop did not have too much luck

catching fish with 2 noisy daughters aboard). I'd pay more attention this time, and ask her what it was like as a young wife and how did she manage diapers with no running water??

One more day to hear about her beauty career before Dad came along. She always renewed her beautician's license just "in case". It was her back up plan I suppose. Mom always cut my hair. Some of the choices were suspect as my school pictures will serve witness. Later when I was out of the house I cut my own hair. Somehow I reasoned that having watched her do my hair over my whole childhood meant that I knew how to do it. (It didn't)

Most of all, I would like one more day to ask Mom questions about the sewing machine cabinet that I now have. It housed various machines that Mom used over the years. Some upgrades were better and some not so much---The "not so much" to be quietly taken back out and replaced with the previous model. (So Dad wouldn't know that she didn't really like the new machine!)

Did she learn sewing from her Mom? Although I was around Mom sewing and made dresses for my dolls (with very little real sewing actually involved), I didn't learn to sew actual garments until 7th or 8th grade Home Ec.

I would love to ask if Mom's cabinet originally belonged to her Mom. And did it ever have a Treadle Machine in it? If so, did Mom use it as a treadle? I once thought I would put a treadle machine in the cabinet and replace the wheel & treadle parts that are missing. I did get as far as purchasing an old treadle Singer but then realized I am not made of the pioneer-type woman my fore-mothers must have been. That Singer weighed a TON and I could barely lift it to put it in. That was the end of my conversion to treadle! I am now perfectly happy to have my modern machine sit on top and use the drawers to house Mom's old and my new sewing treasures.

LM

What a wonderful essay/note to your mom. Thank you for sharing

Lucinda Martin - June 22, 2017 at 08:29 PM

VG

Maybe I should say thanks to my English teacher huh?! Thanks, Mrs. Martin!

Vickie Graham - August 09, 2017 at 08:58 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leola Lundstrum.*



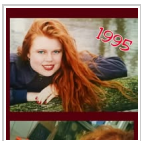
June 14, 2017 at 11:42 AM



“ *2 files added to the album Leola*



Autumn Bagley - June 10, 2017 at 12:30 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Leola*



Autumn Bagley - June 10, 2017 at 12:28 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leola Lundstrum.*



June 08, 2017 at 09:56 AM



“ *Mrs. Lundstrum meant a tremendous amount to me. After working hard helping make maple syrup in the morning I would be starving around lunchtime. Typical lunch with sloppy Joe's and they are still the best I have ever had. At the end of the syrup season the festival was a highlight for the year with this culminating on her giving me a big bag of maple candy. I have since bought maple candy for my children many times each time sharing all the great memories of being back in the woods with the Lundstrums with each bite. I miss you both. I also loved the Christmas ornaments. Horrock's and Bronner's could learn a few things from you.*
Jeff Daniels, Kalamazoo

Jeff Daniels - June 08, 2017 at 08:32 AM