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In Memory of Joan Dunn February 19, 1933 – March 24, 2006

by Charity Winters



“Everyone who knew her, loved her,” seems to be the phrase that speaks the loudest as friends describe the life of Joan Dunn. After battling with skin cancer, family and friends said goodbye to a very dear person as Joan passed away on Friday March 24, 2006. She was 73 years old. Joan is survived by her four children, Kathy, Mary, Matt, and Cindy and her husband, Roger, 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

Joan was also actively involved for many years in the Seldovia EMS and Fire Department as an Emergency Dispatcher.

For those who knew her, Joan is remembered as a “generous, loving person and a good friend.” Her large family was the center of her life – she valued it above all else. Joan’s move to Riverton, Kansas in the fall of 2003 to care for an elderly aunt

Born on February 19, 1933 in Kansas, Joan grew up dreaming of an Alaska she knew through stories from her uncle. She knew that one day she wanted to live there and she made sure that dream became a reality. Joan found work as a manager for the oil company camps on the North Slope. She was there for several years until she and her son, Matt, took a trip to Seldovia in the late 1980's. They fell in love with it. Seldovia's beauty and charm, along with its prime waters for fishing and boating, made it the perfect place. She and her son bought a small house where Joan has lived since. During her time in Seldovia, Joan stayed busy and got involved within the community. Some of the positions she has held here in Seldovia have been working as a manager for SKIAP, working for Synergy (Seldovia's artist co-op which is no longer) and the SOS oil spill team. Her most recent position was managing the Boardwalk Hotel on Seldovia's Main Street.

is a testament of her love for her family. Those in Kansas remembered Joan in a memorial service that was held in Galena, Kansas on March 28 th, 2006. Joan loved the great outdoors – gardening and boating were some of her favorite activities. Her baked goods were known throughout the town as she often baked for community functions. Joan also enjoyed traditional handwork – quilting, knitting, and embroidery.

People who did not have the privilege of knowing Joan Dunn personally may recollect her as the woman who rode her 4-wheeler through the streets of Seldovia accompanied by her 2 huge dogs, Katie and Denali. Her spark for life was obvious to any observer. The people of this community and elsewhere, friends, family, and acquaintances will always remember Joan as a woman full of talent, life, and love.



Some of Joan's family



Joan's son Matt

We are inviting anyone who would like to say something about Joan to email either maryg@seldovia.com or tomg@seldovia.com. We will try to put your comments on line this week. Please try to be

Here is Joan's poem that she wrote at a workshop for women. We had built a sweatlodge out of alders and had a prayer sweat.
which is..... a rock heated in a fire outside of the sweatlodge and then handed in, water is poured on it and while the steam rises each woman around the circle offers a prayer for peace and healing.....the prayer stick being passed from woman to woman..... the prayer stick made it around the circle many times that night.....and many prayers were offered.....at the end we all wrote a poem.....

Sandee Elvsaaas

Joan's poem written that September evening in 1992

The love I feel within this lodge
 Is from time eternal
 It is the love of spirit and life
 It is the driving force of mankind.

The healings I pray for
 The knowledge I listen for
 And the peace I strive for
 Shall make me whole.

Whole within myself
 Whole within my planet
 and whole within the Universe.

With the strength of wholeness
 I can recognize my insignificance

succinct.

and my omnipotence.

I can make a difference

Joan 9/92

Joan gave many "years of service to the Seldovia EMS & Fire Dept, as an Emergency Dispatcher. This behind the scenes job is a necessary part of the emergency services locally, and Joan performed that service for many years during her time in Seldovia. We will indeed miss her."

Darlene Crawford