



Virginia Cheffer

May 18, 2009

Crystal Falls - Virginia Louise Cheffer, 82 of Crystal Falls, died on Monday, May 18, 2009 at her home. She was born on September 21, 1926 in Chicago, Illinois, daughter of the late Richard and Marie (Taylor) Meredith.

She attended school in the Chicago area graduating from Calumet High School in 1944. She married Napoleon Jarvis Cheffer at the All Saints Catholic Church in Illinois in 1947, and he preceded her in death in 1990. Virginia worked as a beautician from 1952 to 1971 first at Eileen's Silver Mist and then at Ranch Manor. From 1977 to 1989 she worked as a Certified Nurse's Aide for both Florence Villa Nursing Home and the Iron County Medical Care Facility.

She was a member of the Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Crystal Falls. She was an avid traveler and mostly enjoyed the art, architecture, food, and culture of France, England, and Canada outside the United States, and the beauty of many of our states, especially Hawaii. Virginia loved fishing, mushroom and berry picking, oil painting the many spots that she had visited, a variety of music and her most favorite, dancing.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Janice Marie Pedigo.

Virginia is survived by a son, Eugene Jarvis Cheffer "Mick" of Chicago, a

daughter, Virginia Lee Miller "Ginger" of Crystal Falls, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren, and a very dear friend of 78 years, Winnie Koszyk.

Private Family services will be held. In lieu of flowers a memorial will be established in her Memory.

Condolences to the family of Virginia Louise Cheffer can be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home of Crystal Falls with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

JP

“ I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to go up to the U.P. with my uncle Mickey last summer. It had been a few years since I had seen my grandmother. She was in Chicago for Aunt Mary's funeral and wake. Me and my fiance got to drive her to go see Winnie (her life-long friend), she talked and told us stories all the way there. We drove by her's and grandpa's old house on Parkside in Oak Lawn, she knew exactly where we were. I am thankful for the time I got to spend with her even under the circumstances. So when I went up to the U.P. last summer I got to spend some special alone time with my grandmother and it couldn't have been better. We got to spend the whole day together. She told me stories, and craked some jokes I'll never forget. She colored her pictures so beautifully in her coloring book, a talent for the arts she was blessed with, will never be taken away. I got a warm hug and more than a few thankyou's from her for helping her out. She was just as sweet and gentle as I remembered her. We sat outside enjoying the day as she so calmly rocked on the swing and pet the two dogs. I have a picture of her that day with the dog on her lap she was making the dog smile for the picture, just as the two of us were. I sucked up all the love I could and I gave all the love I could, in that short time. Not knowing when I would or if I would get to do it again. I was able to give her a kiss and her kiss me back. But the best part was when she called me by my name whether she really knew it was me or if she was mistaking me for my mother, it didn't matter, for her to talk to me and call me by my name made feel so special. During the visit she kept telling me there was a women up stairs. Well I think it was my mother(our angel). I was sad to go, but so grateful I got to see her, hear her voice, feel her warmth and love, I was hoping to see her again this summer, although I did not get that chance, God let me be with her and say good-bye(not knowing it was my last). You will always be loved and never forgotten. I feel a little at ease knowing my mother will get to be with her mother again. I will join them someday too. I love you all, Janice Marie.

Janice Marie Pedigo - July 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ My condolences for your loss. I have many fond memories of Ginger. I have a beautiful picture she painted from a snapshot, that she took when we travelled to Florida and it hangs in my living room. She was good friend and I am thankful for the times we spent together.

*Marie Huss
15442 Lakeforest Drive
Sun City, AZ 85351*

Marie Huss, dancing and travel partner - June 12, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ Please know that in this difficult time, our thoughts, prayers and love are with you.

*Sincerely,
Preston, Christopher, Michael and Mike*

Preston Adams - June 07, 2009 at 12:00 AM

“ Several wonderful people sent me cards about you, Mother. So many wonderful friends of yours, mine, and family, too, sent me a card. However, I must leave you today with a story shared and re-shared with me by your niece Diana. You see I know that the Angels were there for you when you entered that Other Room where you live now. Everyone wants to be in that room, so here is the story to be left about you. When you first moved to Michigan, you and Father had to live in a small camper trailer, the kind that gets pulled behind a truck. Father paid about 2 grand used for it back then in 1978. Well, you had Ginger Lee and I there with you, we were clearing the Phelan's plat lot on the air strip and making that circular driveway and it was all very hard work. The green barn house was not built, yet. When we were all inside the trailer together and your children just could not get along (we had lots of energy then), you said adamantly to us, your children arguing about nothing,

?Go To The Other Room!?

Well, we looked over the space in that trailer to the bathroom which could not be bigger than 4? x 3? feet and had a pull door on it that was closed. We looked at each other and then we said ?Mother, what ?other room?? Then, the three of us burst into laughter! We laughed many times over that moment together. You see just by your presence, you created for us at 15 and 22 years of age a whole adventure, while beaten down by the summer heat inside that travel trailer, to be together but right now apart. You needed your solitude right now! So I dedicate to you the following story that someone else has written for blessings to those they cherish now and forever :

DEATH~

WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT..

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to

Leave the examination room and said,

'Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.'

Very quietly, the doctor said, 'I don't know.'

'You don't know? You, a Christian man,

Do not know what is on the other side?'

*The doctor was holding the handle of the door;
On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining,
And as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room
And leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.
=Turning to the patient, the doctor said,
'Did you notice my dog?
He's never been in this room before.
He didn't know what was inside.
He knew nothing except that his master was here,
And when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.
I know little of what is on the other side of death,
But I do know one thing...
I know my Master is there and that is enough.'*

*I was trying to share with you some of the things you enjoyed doing
with our Father. Your last words on earth directed to me, Mother,
were, 'Eugene, do not talk to me about the past. You see, I look
only towards the future all of my life. I never dwell on what has
happened in the past.' Mother, thank you for so many gifts of
wisdom, and for accepting me, your Son, with undying love. You
lived many todays and truly lived in the present moment all of your
life. Who would have guessed you were only thinking about
tomorrows? Your presence to I and others in those moments were
your many 'gifts' and I have learned that is why the present should
not be taken for granted.*

*I hope other friends and relatives will leave a memory of you here
because everyone will have to open the door to the Other Room
someday!*

*Mom, I look forwards to joining you in the Other Room one day! I
know there were Angels in the Upper Peninsula winds to whisk you
away, as my Sister Ginger Lee, told me so!*

Your Sonny-boy!

'Mick'

JH

“ MA CHEFFER AS I USE TO CALL HER WAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE TO ME A WONDERFUL WOMAN. SHE WAS A STRONG WILLED WOMAN WHO LOVED LIFE. WHEN THINGS GOT TOUGH, SHE GOT TOUGHER. I GREW UP WITH GINGER LEE-MILLER ,IN OAK LAWN AS MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND.WE ARE STILL BEST-FRIENDS TO DATE. ON SOME WEEK-ENDS I WOULD SPEND THE NIGHT EVEN THOUGH I LIVED ACROSS THE STREET.MA CHEFFER WOULD BRING HOME KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN FOR DINNER SOMETIMES.AFTER DINNER AND DISHES WE WOULD PLAY BOARD GAMES AND LAUGH. OH HOW SHE COULD MAKE ME LAUGH.MY CHILDHOOD WAS STRONGER BECAUSE OF MA CHEFFER.IN MY HEART I WILL ALWAYS LOVE HER.AS I WRITE THIS WITH TEARS IN MY EYES, I KNOW SHE HAS BEEN TAKEN TO A WONDERFUL PLACE OF PEACE.MY LOVE TO YOU ALWAYS AND FOREVER.
JUDY ANN SMALLEY HAYGOOD

JUDY ANN SMALLEY HAYGOOD - June 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ *Memories:*

Being young and being excited to go to the U.P. with my parents, to visit Uncle Jarv, Aunt Gin, Mick, Jan, Ginger Lee. Continuing to go with my friends, then my wife and our kids, and even then with a few of our grand kids.

Watching Aunt Gin paint then waiting for her spaghetti dinner. Aunt Gin showing us what berries to pick and what not to pick.

Going to listen to Ginger Lee play drums with her band. My favorite was Wipe-Out.

Just the joy of being with Aunt Gin and the families

Going fishing, camping on the Way Dam and occasionally on an island with Uncle Jarv, Aunt

Gin and all of us.

I WISH I COULD TURN BACK TIME. BUT, AT LEAST I STILL HAVE THE MEMORIES.

LOVE YOU ALL

BOBBY

BOB WAGNER - June 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NK

“ *Dear Mick and Ginger*

When I first met Ginger I was 5 years old and she was in her late 20's. She was the mother of my dearest and oldest friends Mick and Janice {Ginger came along later.} I thought how beautiful she is and what a great smile and laugh she has . I remebered thinking she was the only other mother in the neighborhood that was as beautiful as my own mother. As I got older I was amazed at how hard working she was . She was forever hanging clothes out and doing other jobs around her house and she also was one of the only mothers I knew that worked outside her home as well as doing hair in her house. She seemed very independent and confident . She had many tough times in her life but she never lost her lovely smile ,she passed that down to her children and grandchildren . Anyone who knew her would remember how she would light up when she was talking about her family and oh how she would laugh when telling a funny story ,her eyes seemed to sparkle. What a great lady she was .Hope she is smiling and telling stories to her family in heaven! Love Noreen

Noreen Krzyzowski - May 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ It was many years ago that I met the Cheffer family. I believe it was because my brother dated little Ginger. Jimmy and I loved going up to their house lots of music lots of fun. I remember what a beautiful painter...artist Ginger was. The one painting I remember was her vase of lillacs. Lillacs are my favorite. And if I remember right purple was her favorite color at that time. Well, time passed and things changed. We all went in our own direction. But Ginger and I were not done yet. We became co-workers at Iron County Medicare Facility. We had a ball. We worked hard, laughed hard. Ginger would sometimes pick me up to go to work. My parents did not know I was smoking then, I was around 18 years old. Sometimes when I didn't have a cigarette she would "bum" me one. She smoked filterless cigarettes! I would be spitting little bits of tabacco all the way to work. I have often talked about my smoking habit and many times about Gingerps cigarettes. I still laugh. Ginger was a good soul. She was full of laughter and love and has touched many hearts with her kindness. I am lucky that Mick keeps in touch with me. May love and prayers go out to Ginger and Mickey. Ginger's legacy of love continues with her children and grandchildren. GOD bless them all.

Laura Clement-Wagner - May 31, 2009 at 12:00 AM

WK

“ Dear Mickey and Ginger Lee,
It is so difficult to express my feelings at this time. I know Gyn is better off now since she was having such a struggle for quite a long time.
I only wish I could have seen her one more time so that we could have had our favorite tuna fish sandwiches, tea and cookies. Most of all I wish I could have given her a big hug and told her how much she meant to me.
I am deeply honored that you included me in Gyns' obituary. Thank you so very much for that honor. Most sincerely,
Winnie

Winnie Koszyk - May 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM

WK

“ *This space cannot hold all the memories I have of our friendship. Gyn and I were little four-year old girls when we met. She often told the story of how she pushed me off my tricycle at our first meeting. Somehow it didn't matter because we became friends and stayed that way for 78 years! As years passed, our lives went in different directions but we still kept in touch and saw each other when she visited her family in Illinois.*

Our early years were filled with fun and adventure.

We went to Jack and Jill Ranch in Montague, Michigan several times.

She came with my parents and me for vacations at my adopted Aunt Lena and Uncle Carls'lakeside home in Drayton Plains, Michigan. We fished, swam, and went on rowing adventures through a channel to another lake. One of them almost became a misadventure when a storm blew up from nowhere and we had to struggle to get back to safety.

I have a beautiful painting that Gyn painted for my husband and me. It is above my piano and it is a constant reminder of the "good old days" which I will never forget.

Good-by dear friend. Love and peace be with you.

Winnie

Winnie Koszyk - May 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Dearest Loving Grandma,
I too remember the dam and the air strip behind the mint green house.. the broken pieces of an airplane washed along the sand.. I always remember asking grandma "what happened???" And she would explain that "it missed the strip and crashed along the shore", this story amazed me; therefore, I asked it again and again. She was so beautiful and tender to us girls! She would always take us berry and green bean picken!! YUM!! It makes me sad that she didn't get to know my babies like I knew her..for that I am truly and deeply sorry.. miles kept us apart in the physical but not in heart!! Stories can't explain how wonderful she was...[IS] she is still wonderful, but now she is also gloriously dancing with Jesus in heaven! First Tell My mother, grandpa, aunt Mary, brother-in-law Doug and also cuddles and nap I said hello! And then enjoy your dance!!
Love,hugs and kisses, your granddaughter Di and clan!!
xo,xo,xo,xo,xo

Bartkowiak Family - May 24, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ In remembrance of my loving and most caring grandmother. She is sadly missed but never forgotten for I know she is watching over my family and I every day. I especially know how much she loved my son chase her great grandson.(her beautiful little boy). I have many great memories of all of us especially at the way dam and behind the old house playing in the air strip, and even picking the wrong flowers from the neighbors yard and grandma telling me it was o.k.. Rest in peace and know how much you are loved and miss. Have fun dancing with your angel wing now grandma, and so hello to Grandpa Aunt Jan, Jackie, Aunt Mary and even NAP and the rest of the gang. Love your grand daughter DANDY BRANDEE and family!!!

The Korpi Family - May 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM