



## Betty Parsons

September 16, 1922 - August 19, 2010

Betty Ione Parsons, 87, of Kingsford passed away Thursday, August 19, 2010 at Manorcare Health Services in Kingsford, Michigan.

She was born September 16, 1922 in Kingston, Illinois, the third and youngest child of Chester A. and Anna (Duff) Bird. Betty attended schools in Illinois, Detroit, and Elmira, Michigan. At age thirteen Betty was awarded Champion medals for the Detroit News School and District Spelling Bees.

Betty left home during the Depression-era 1930's to support herself, abandoning her last two years of high school. At eighteen, on November 14, 1940, she married Joseph M. Parsons, her life-long partner of sixty-nine years. They made their home in St. Ignace until Joe left to join the Army Air Corps in 1942. While Joe took basic training in Chicago at Soldier Field Betty followed, working for the Keystone company making photo-identification materials of enemy ships, planes, and other military equipment. Her free spirit soared in open cockpit plane rides and aerial loops over the Chicago skyline on some of her days off.

After World War II she moved to Petoskey, Michigan with her husband and worked for Sears Roebuck & Co. as a Credit Manager and Catalog Store Manager. Later, she became Manager of the Petoskey Jo-Ann Fabrics store. In 1972 Betty & Joe had a great adventure traveling to Alaska in their truck

camper. Driving the gravel road of the Al Can Highway they shot hundreds of feet of 8 MM film of Alaskan wildlife and scenery.

Betty's retirement years included a couple of winters in Florida and part-time work in the Newberry, Michigan Sears Catalog Merchant store. Her true love was time spent in outdoor camping on "number 14" at the Pretty Lake State Forest campground, northwest of Newberry, Michigan. She and Joe made many friends among the campers and educated a generation of fishermen on the Art of Catching Fish on Pretty Lake. Her favorite saying was as she lived her life: "You can do anything if you put your mind to it-" a true testament to her courage and character as she rose to management positions during her working years without the benefit of a high school diploma. She was an avid reader all her life.

Betty is survived by her husband, Joe, a resident of Manorcare, a son Merle (Betty) Parsons of Iron Mountain, a granddaughter Lori (Shawn) Smith, of Minneapolis, MN, a grandson Jeffrey Parsons, of Salt Lake City, Utah, a great grandson, Ryan Paul Parsons, of Salt Lake City, Utah and many nieces, great nieces, nephews and great nephews. Betty was preceded in death by her father Charles A. Bird, her mother Anna, her step-father Richard Stark, her dearly-beloved sister, Phyllis, her brother Chester ("Chet") Bird and Bryan Richard Parsons. In accordance with Betty's wishes no memorial services are planned. The family requests no flowers. Inurnment will be held in Ellsworth, Michigan at a later date.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Betty I. Parsons online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com) or can be mailed to her husband, Joseph Parsons c/o Manorcare Health Services 1225 Woodward Ave. Kingsford Mi 49802

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.



# Tribute Wall

DF

“ Dear Joe, Merle and Betty,

*We are so sorry to hear of Betty's passing. It has been years since I have seen Betty or Joe for that matter. I still remember Betty when she worked for Sears in Petoskey and I'll never forget "Pretty Bird" dumping all of his bird seed on her head during the rehearsal dinner for your(Merle & Betty's) wedding at the apartment in Petoskey. She took it all in good humor.*

*Sincerely,  
Donna/Rod Searles*

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**Donna Searles - Levering, MI - friend** - August 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ *My sympathy to Merle and Uncle Joe and family. I remember Aunt Betty fondly. Fishing on Pretty Lake, sitting around the campfire. She always had a snack for us little kids. And she and Uncle Joe always caught the biggest fish. She is a treasure. God bless you and keep you. Love - Pam and family*

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**Pam Bosin - Grand Rapids, MI - Great-Neice** - August 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ *To Uncle Joe and family, I'm so sorry to hear about Aunt Betty. I remember camping at pretty lake and sitting around the campfires, and fishing of course. You and aunt betty always caught fish. I will always have fond memories of those days. I will miss aunt betty very much. My condolences go out to you and your family. God bless you. Jodi Bosin*

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**Jodi Bosin - Lakeland, FL - great niece** - August 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ DEAR JOE -- MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY IN THE LOSS OF YOUR BETTE. CAROL AND I (FRITZ) SPENT MANY WONDERFUL HOURS WITH YOU AT YOUR PRETTY LAKE CAMPSITE. I REMEMBER YOU BRINGING YOUR "SPLAKE" TO US WHEN WE WERE STAYING AT FLOYD'S CABIN ON LONG LAKE. ALSO THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL OF THE BLUEBERRY WINE YOU AND BETTE GAVE US. IT WAS ALWAYS FUN TO GO TO YOUR APARTMENT IN NEWBERRY AND VISIT. I WILL TRY TO SEE YOU SOON. -- FRITZ HAEGERT

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**FRITZ HAEGERT - LARWILL (and PIKE LAKE, U.P. MICHIGAN), IN - FRIEND -**  
August 21, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Mom,  
*I pray that you are at peace and re-united with your sister and mother. You loved your sister very much, you missed her many times. I will try to remember the better times before disease diluted that fiercely independent personality. I remember the time we got stuck in the snowstorm not far from the radio station in Petoskey--- of Dad rescuing us. I was just a kid so nothing bothered me.... it was a great adventure... maybe you were more concerned than I .... I remember those Easter and Christmas holidays at Aunt FA's and those summer days at the cabin of Grandma Stark's. I remember when we rushed to the old Sears catalog store on Mitchell street in Petoskey-- as fire was consuming the building next door we moved the detergent and appliances off the floor of the store--- perhaps unwisely--- but we were all young and invincible then ....I remember those camping days at Pretty Lake.... the thunderstorm that night that frightened you--- you had us leave our tents and come to the camper to eat strawberry rhubarb pie to take our minds off the lightening crashing through the sky.... of "chimney fires" blazing around the campsite and the sound of music from your friends gathered for your birthday....of feeding chipmunks peanuts endlessly on convenient stumps...*

*Love, your son*

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**J Merle Parsons - Iron Mountain , MI - son** - August 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Peace

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**Merle Parsons - son** - August 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Hi Joe, Merle & Betty,

We are so sorry to hear about Betty. We were picking blueberries last

weekend in "your old spot" and talked about how Betty loved to pick berries and how Joe loved the blueberry pies. The berries are really good this year. If you let us know a day ahead of time , when you come here Janice say's she will have a pie ready.

We will be thinking of you and keeping you in our prayers.

Take care, Duane & Janice

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**Duane And Janice Reynolds - Boyne Falls, MI - Friend** - August 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM