



## Janet Dean

September 27, 1935 - September 27, 2011

Janet Lee Dean, 76, of Felch, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2011.

She was born Nov. 17, 1934, in Ralph, daughter of the late Helmer and Kristina (Paulic) Edberg. She lived in Ralph and Calumet Mine until the age of 5 when the family moved to Buchanan.

Janet returned to the Felch area in 1941 when her parents purchased the Rian Store, which became "Helmer's IGA." She attended the Felch High School where she participated in many school activities and graduated in 1952. Janet loved to dance and enjoyed the "Teenage Club" dances held at the Metropolitan Hall. After graduation, she went to work at the First National Bank in Iron Mountain.

Janet married Kenneth H. Dean, son of the late B. Howard and Myrtle "Bonnie" (Lantz) Dean, grandson of the late Edward and Anna (Dixon) Lantz, on Dec. 26, 1953, at Zion Lutheran Church in Metropolitan. They resided in the Iron Mountain/Kingsford area where their two children were born.

In 1959, they moved to Norwalk, Calif., where Ken worked building patios and also for Armstrong Flooring. They made many lifelong friends before moving back to the Felch area for a short time in 1963, and then to Marquette where

Ken attended NMU, graduating in 1968. During their time in Marquette, Janet worked at the First National Bank to help put Ken through school. She was also very active at the Messiah Lutheran Church and loved singing in the choir as well as helping as a part of the "Ladies Aide."

She enjoyed "Koffeeklotching," playing cards with friends, skiing, knitting, crocheting, crafts, attending her children's school functions and much more. In 1969, the family moved to Sault Ste. Marie where Ken was employed by the Sault Area Schools. Janet Lee also went to work for the same school system as a clerk at the junior high, then going to the high school and eventually the administration building as secretary to the director of special education, a position she held until leaving the Soo. While there, she was active in her church, many school functions, "Married People's Dance Club," sports events, playing cards and just plain visiting with friends.

While their children were growing up, they made it a priority to see as much of the U.S. as possible. They took many trips across the country and when the grandchildren came along, they did it all over again, having a wonderful time! The Deans moved back to the Felch area in 1979 when Ken accepted a job with the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District (DIISD). They had previously purchased the Paulic Farm (where not only Janet Lee was born but also her mother) and they lived there for the next 25 years. Janet Lee also went to work for the DIISD, where she was a bus driver for the preschool program for two years, then became a bus-aide and classroom aide for the special education SMI/SXI program. Eventually she became the bus driver/classroom aide, a position she held for eight years and said "it was the best job I ever had." "Those children taught me what love is all about." Janet retired in 1996.

She loved volunteering and did so at the Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for about 50 years, doing whatever she could to help including being a board

member. She attended the women's retreats held there for more than 25 years. She was very active in her church, Zion Lutheran of Metropolitan, and served in many capacities including the choir, president of the Ladies Aide many times over the years, church secretary, church council member, Stewardship Committee member, worship and music programs, quilting, cleaning bees, visitation, communion homecare giver, took care of getting greeters, communion assistant and communion usher, and whatever else that might come up where she could be of help. She was also on the ELCA's Synodical Women's Board for many years and loved ringing the bell for the Salvation Army as long as she was able.

Janet and Ken also loved cruising and did so many times with family and friends including Ken's step-dad, Harold "Rocky" Rasmussen. Janet and Ken sold the farm in Ralph to their boys, Bill Dean and Ron Taipalus in 2007 and moved back to Felch where they currently reside.

Janet leaves her husband of 57 years, Ken; children, Krisanne (David) Dennocenzo of Hardwood, William Dean of Iron Mountain, and Ron Taipalus of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Dean and Nikki Dennocenzo of Felch, Dylan and Madeline Dennocenzo of Felch, Brandi Dean, and Lindsey Mashak of Iron Mountain; great-grandchildren, Ava Lee and Parker Kenneth Dennocenzo of Felch and Taylor Dennocenzo of Felch; a brother, Helmer (Johney) Edberg; a sister, Delores (Tom) Burton; nieces, Ann and Terri Lynn; nephews, Richard and Dave; special friends, Sharon Sheppard from the Soo and Kathy Clemo of Ralph; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends.

Visitation will be Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Metropolitan.

Funeral services will follow Saturday at 11 a.m. at the church. Pastor Joel Smeby will officiate.

Janet will be buried on the Paulic/Dean farm in Ralph joining many family members.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Zion Lutheran Church.

Condolences to the family of Janet Dean may be expressed online at [ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://ernashfuneralhomes.com)

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 30. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home  
901 Carpenter Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

## Visitation

OCT 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church  
W4703 Metropolitan Rd.  
Felch, MI 49831

## Funeral Service

OCT 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church  
W4703 Metropolitan Rd.  
Felch, MI 49831

# Tribute Wall

BF

“ Dear Kenny and Family...  
*I was so surprised and sorry to hear about Jan. So many memories... wonderful memories for my kids of her...She will be missed by all who knew her....*

*Bobbi Bonetti and Family*

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**Bobbi Bonetti and Mark Bonetti, Pat Bonetti, Mike Bonetti and Lo - Crystal Falls, MI - Friend** - October 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *I always admired Janet's endless energy and her and Kenny's ability to turn the page and move on to new adventures. Nothing seemed to daunt her, even her battle with cancer was met head on ready to take the next step with hope and optimism-- seemingly fearless. I like to think that my daughter, Brandi, has inherited this spirit, and lives her life as her grandmother did, with purpose and passion, unafraid to turn the page. Thank you for being a good g'ma and all the things you taught me too, even the ludfist and strucla (sp?) .*

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**Sherry Addison - Marquette, MI** - October 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ *Kenny and family: I am so sorry to hear that Janet passed away. She was one of the kindest, warmest and fun woman that I ever knew. One of my best memories of her was when she helped Jane Sandri chaperone our Girl Scouts group at a camp on Norway Lake when I was young. She and Janie made that weekend so much fun for us. God Bless you all in your time of need. Hugs and love to all of you. -Meridy*

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**Meridy Sundholm - Arnold, MI - cousin-in-law** - September 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *First of all, whoever wrote Janets obituary did an outstanding job. As I was reading along, I got to ride along through her life and visualize all the things she had done through the years. One thing about Janet....she was always in motion. I cannot express adequately enough how glad I am that she and Kenny stopped by our home on their last trip. It gave me a chance to reacquaint with both Kenny and Janet Lee and we had the most wonderful time. My husband was so happy to make their acquaintance. It seems that throughout her life she left everyone she met with the impression of a loving, giving heart. She was proof that Christianity doesn't have to be a somber state. She emulated joy and love and laughter and LOTS of chit chat which was thoroughly enjoyable.*

*We are both so SAD that we will never get to see you on this earth again. We are really hoping that we will meet again when it is our turn to go to the Kingdom of Heaven.*

*God bless you Kenny as you go through the times ahead of dealing with this loss. Our hearts go out to you and your children and grandchildren.*

*Love, Juanita*

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**Juanita Bussmann - Austni, TX - cousin-in-law** - September 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Dear Kenny and Family,

*Janet will be dearly missed. I met her while working at Fortune Lake. She was such a wonderful, sweet, and generous lady, who loved the Lord. I will always remember her stories and letters about family trips and adventures as well as her passion for sharing the gospel with others.*

*May God's peace and blessings be yours most abundantly.*

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**Kelly Ylitalo - Garrison, ND - Friend - September 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM**

PC

“ Although I like Janet was not born a Dean, through the years I came to know her as my husband's cousins' wife. Our friendship lasted over 30 years. Through visits, and phone calls and emails. she quickly became more than a relative, she was my friend. Janet was an energetic person ..a very giving loving person. Quite simply, to know her was to love her.. and I did..

*I know that all of her family and countless number of friends will miss that smiling pretty face.*

*My heart goes out to Janet's family.*

*Said and sent with much love and sympathy..*

*Pat Dean*

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**patricia dean - Addison, IL - cousin - September 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM**

JF

“ Janet was the most wonderful, loving and caring person that I ever had the blessing of knowing. I met Janet while working as the Office Manager at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. She was always full of energy and joy. In the summer of 2007, Janet became my roommate during the week. My husband had just accepted a position in Green Bay and Janet knew how much I disliked being alone at night. We had some great conversations about life and God. She was like a second mother...always there when I needed her. I loved her so much!

*We will miss you Janet Dean! Love, Dan, JMarie, Chivas and Miller*

*Chivas and Miller are our golden retrievers. They also loved Janet...she always had a toy or treat for them.*

*This is not good-bye Janet, I will see you again. JMarie Freis*

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**JMarie Freis - Little Suamico, WI - Friend - September 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM**

JF

“ I just got word about the passing of your wife Jan. Although I didn't have a chance to get to know her I felt like I did after hearing all the stories about your marriage over the years that we have known each other. In reading her obituary she obviously was a wonderful woman, wife and mother with all her interests and commitments to her church. I'm sorry that we haven't been in touch for a couple of years. Should your travels take you to Marquette please give me a call and we can get together. We have extra bedrooms and you're always welcome to stay w/ us. Unfortunaely, I won't be able to attend the visitation or funeral in that I'll be out of town. My prayers are with you and your family.

*John Lindholm*

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**John Lindholm - Marquette, MI - Friend - September 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM**

BF

“ I grew up in Soo Mich, And spent alot of time at the Deans house , I went to school with Billy.I new Janet as Ma Dean and Ken as a Pa Dean...What a wonderful person she was.. so may Memorys of her.. I am So Sorry for your loss.God Bless all of you.  
Brenda Swick Weaver

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**Brenda Swick Weaver - sturgeon Bay, WI - friend -** September 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM