



Hazel F. Gibson

August 8, 1938 - February 19, 2015

Hazel Florence Gibson (76) of Toppenish quietly passed away at the Toppenish Community Hospital on Thursday February 19, 2015. Hazel was born in Toppenish on August 8, 1938 to Elmo and Florence (Jensen) Corbett. Mom was a lifelong Toppenish resident and a member of the Yakama Nation. Mom was raised and educated in Toppenish, graduating in 1956. She also graduated from Yakima Valley Community College and earned an Associate in Hotel Management. Earning her degree was especially fun for mom and a source of pride and accomplishment. She was president of the Host Club on more than one occasion and enjoyed traveling about the U.S., competing and earning awards in competitions.

Raised on a Hereford cattle ranch, it was natural for mom to early on appreciate horses, cows, livestock and all manners of creatures great and small. She would often fondly reflect upon her youth when she would ride horses in the mountains assisting in rounding up cows at the old Jensen Cow Camp or riding with her grandpa, Fred Jensen to Potato Hill to pick huckleberries. In her youth mom was an accomplished Native American dancer. She danced with distinction and traveled with her friends extensively throughout the Pacific Northwest and the Southwest participating in native dancing at Pow Wows & rodeo's.

Mom worked for the Yakama Nation for a while and the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a cashier for 22 years, and then retired in 1988 (gleefully ran away from her job!), and pursued her college degree. Mom was also a Hereford

Cattle rancher for 30+ years and enjoyed caring and tending for her "Ladies". Many young people in the Valley for a short period became "cowboys" during this time & she fed them well when the work was done! Most of her grandkids were recruited at one time or another to feed cows, rain or shine! Mom knew how to sew, and saved much money sewing her own creative work clothes and clothes for her family.

Mom liked gardening, raising fruits and nuts, raised a nice flower patch she enjoyed taking care of and warily kept a keen eye out for "Vipers"(snakes) which she loathed.

Mom is survived by one daughter, Sandy Strong, three sons, Fred Gibson, Byron Lloyd, and Gary Gibson; 11 grandchildren, Elizabeth, Gracie, Jefferson, Ammon, Merri and Courtney Stancliffe. Evie (Topher) Davis, Katherine (G-Mo) Rodriguez, Fred Gibson Jr., Mikee (Lilly) Strong and Logan Shaw and six great grand children. Mom's grandchildren and great grandchildren were a source of pride and comfort and she reveled in their accomplishments and company. She was preceded in death by her parents, Elmo Corbett, Florence and Floyd Gibson; and a son, John Strong.

In the last couple years, special recognition needs to be given for the tender loving care she received from the doctors, nurses and staff at the Indian Health Service, Premier Care from U.W. Medicine and the doctors and nurses at Toppenish Community Hospital who made mom feel safe and comfortable on numerous occasions. Special note to the cashiers, craps table dealers, machine attendants, staff and promotions personnel at Legends Casino who always treated mom well and cheered for her when she won and sympathized when she did not. A nod of appreciation to Harold Sealock who took the extra time and effort to assist mom when needed.

Funeral Services are 10AM Monday February 23 at Colonial Funeral Home with burial following at the Zillah Cemetery. A BBQ lunch will be held at the Toppenish Longhouse on Robbins Road and Fort Road, feel free to bring a salad or dessert.

Cemetery Details

City of Zillah

(509) 829-5151

Tribute Wall



“ *Hazel F. Gibson*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *My sympathy for the loss of Hazel. She was my Top-Hi classmate and will be missed. That is a lovely picture of her in traditional dress.*

Pepper "Shequin" Teem of Mt. Angel, Oregon

Pepper Teem - March 12, 2015 at 11:28 AM