

# Jeanne Bellis Drucker

May 9, 1922 - March 15, 2004

Jeanne Bellis was born at her grandmother's house in a spring snow storm on May 9, 1922, in Wheatland, WY, to Maude Alma (Elliot) and William Barton Bellis. She died after a brief illness in the winter sunshine at Frasier Meadows Health Care Center on March 15, 2004, in Boulder, CO.

Jeanne graduated from Wheatland High School in 1940, then attended Cottey College in Nevada, MO. In 1943, she moved to Washington D. C. to work for Wyoming Senator Robertson. She married her high school sweetheart, Donald K. Drucker, on March 27, 1943, in Silver Spring, MD. She was given away by Senator Robertson, who hosted her reception at the Mayflower Hotel. While her husband served in the Marines during WWII, Jeanne lived and worked in San Francisco, CA.

After the war, Don's career led them to several mid-western cities, where Jeanne's passion for cooking, entertaining, and discovering the "local fare" flourished. She was especially fond of her time on Grey Cloud Island in St. Paul Park, MN, where she raised horses and lead the local 4-H Club. With each new home, Jeanne built life long friendships.

After Don's death in 1971 in Kearney, NE, Jeanne returned to her childhood home in Wheatland. Her love of antiques prompted her to establish Anna-Maude Antiques in 1972, then, a few years later, she realized her dream of operating a restaurant when she became the manager of the Wheatland Country Club. Her reputation for providing wonderfully entertaining meals and delightful culinary masterpieces was known throughout the region. After retiring from the Country Club, Jeanne refurbished the farm house on her family's homestead on the Wheatland flats. She moved to Louisville, CO, in 1992 to be with her daughter's family.

Jeanne enjoyed reading, discussing, and quot-

ing the Bible, and was a member of the First Christian Church of Boulder. She was a long time member of PEO and a member of Chapter ID of Lafayette. Jeanne was a consummate gourmet and is remembered for her enormous collection of recipes and cookbooks, which she referenced while compiling her own "Recipes and Remembrances." She loved to entertain and prepare family and holiday dinners. Jeanne also liked the personal side of history, especially that of the US Presidents, wives and English royalty. Jeanne enjoyed gardening, music, movies, genealogy, raising Shih Tzus, and spending time with her grandchildren. She loved to throw a party for the Bolder Boulder and, at the age of 70, walked the Race. She relished the chance to travel to cooking schools and share experiences with Paul Prudhomme, Emeril Lagasse, or James Beard.

She is survived by her son, James D. "Sam" Drucker, of Pinedale, WY, her daughter, Mary Louise Jefferson, of Lodge Grass, MT, and her daughter and son-in-law, Katie and Howard Johnson, of Louisville, CO. She is also survived by six grandchildren and her brother James Bellis of Wheatland, WY. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a sister, a brother, and one daughter.

A memorial and reception in memory of Jeanne B. Drucker will be held at the First Christian Church in Boulder on May 1, at 11:00 a.m. with a reception following at Karen's in the Country in Louisville. A grave side service will be held in Wheatland on May 2, 2004, at 1:00 p.m. with a reception following the service at the Wheatland Country Club. Donations in her memory can be sent to the First Christian Church, 950 28th Street, Boulder, CO, 80303 or to Frasier Meadows Health Care Center, 4950 Thunderbird Drive, Boulder, CO, 80303.