



## Joycell M. Cooper

December 22, 1927 - January 7, 2019

Joycell Cooper, our dear Whiting cousin, has passed away. Her love and commitment for the reunions was profound. She will long be remembered for knowing every member of the Whiting family by name, for her infectious laugh, and for her Ghost Stories, told to the teenagers late at night for many years.

Joycell Mae Hamblin Cooper “returned home” Monday, January 7, 2019. During the weeks prior to her passing, she was surrounded by her loving family, and the wonderful staff at Wildwood Retirement Home.

She is survived by her brother, Markay Hamblin, her six children Janice & Tom Winden, Martin & Susan Cooper, Shawn & Linda Cooper, Lance & Karen Cooper, Angela and Rusty Lambrose and Vaylene & Justin Rollins, plus a bonus son, Jim Wild. She currently has 26 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren and 6 great-great grandchildren. There are many adoring nieces, nephews and cousins.

Joycell was born December 22, 1927 to Maree Berry and Mark Elbert Hamblin. She was the first grandchild of May & Herbert Berry.

Her early life was filled with adventure. Her father was called to serve a full-time mission to the Hawaiian Islands, and Joycell and her mother went with

him.

A quick learner, Joycell picked up the native lifestyle directly from the other kids in the neighborhood. She learned to eat raw fish freshly caught from the ocean, and could shimmy up a palm tree. She would entertain the other missionaries with an authentic hula, usually perched on a quilt-covered table because she was so small, in a miniature hula skirt. She learned to love entertaining others, being the life of the party, and keeping complete control of her audience. These were traits that would serve her throughout her life.

Along with the adventures in her childhood, came unusually challenging trials. Her father was troubled, often absent, and did not support the family. Other siblings came along, Leilani, Markay, and Jeannie, and her mother carried the parenting and financial responsibility for their family alone for many years. Her parents' divorce came when Joycell was in her early teens. At the time, divorce was extremely rare, and Joycell as the oldest, faced much stigma and little understanding.

She met and married Jack DeWayne Cooper, and Joycell worked as a dental assistant to put Jack through dental school. After Jack began practicing dentistry, she was able to stay home as a full-time mother, serving faithfully in many callings in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

During all the years, she lifted and lightened the loads of others. She was quick to see the burdens others carried. Her love for entertaining carried her through many adventures, roadshows, melodramas, talent shows, sugar plum fairy trees, plays, story-telling, and pageants. Through it all she was the life of the party, the center of attention, and usually the writer, costume designer, director and producer. Her husband, Jack, supported her in all her endeavors and she usually cast him as the hero, the villain, or the star.

She was a faithful follower of the Savior, serving in every calling with exuberance, and spending many years as a temple worker. Just as her earliest years began on a mission, her final years were spent in a mission of love and goodwill to the staff and residents of the Wildwood Retirement Home. She was an influence for good there as queen of the palace. Farewell, and aloha, our beloved Joycell.

The funeral will be held Saturday, January 19th at 11:00 a.m. in the Monett Ward Meetinghouse. Interment will be at the private family cemetery at a later date due to weather under the direction of Lakin Funeral Home in Pierce City.

# Cemetery Details

## Andelin Family Cemetery

Pierce City, MO

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 19. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
South Hwy 37  
Monett, MO 65708  
(417) 235-5108

## Funeral Service

JAN 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
South Hwy 37  
Monett, MO 65708  
(417) 235-5108

# Tribute Wall



“ *Joycell M. Cooper*

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October 09, 2023 at 08:34 AM



“ *We would like to express our deepest sympathy. May those precious memories be foremost in your hearts and minds during this difficult time.*

*Isaiah 25:8*

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**Jackson Family** - January 25, 2019 at 12:36 PM

PV

“ Bill & I were new converts in 1972 and I was assigned to be a Visiting Teaching Companion to Joycell. What a great learning experience, I loved going with her to visit Erma Malan, Joyce Doss, Doreen Garn and many others in the old Clovis 2nd Ward. She taught me to first love the sisters, always have a lesson, & to bring a treat. For years Bill and I reminisced about that hilarious 1978 Elders Quorum Scavenger Hunt. About 14 couples met out at the Cooper's place, tossed one shoe into a wash tub, had a prayer, drew names for 2 couple teams, given a clue for where we would find the 2nd to the 8th clues (all somewhere northeast of Clovis) to find our way back with those 8 tokens in exchange for hot dogs and S'mores. Oh yes, we had to find our shoes in that tub before we could head out with a dime to call Joycell if we couldn't figure out the next clue (remember 10-cent pay phones?). Dick Madsen, Larry Bybee, Dick Domingues, & Blaine Thomas almost killed us scrambling for their shoe. I don't where Joycell came up with all those fun party ideas, but we never missed an activity and always had a blast. Her love for the Savior, her big smile and hearty laugh was a great example for me. I'm sure Bill was in on the committee that welcomed Joycell home. I miss them both!

Patty Vaughn

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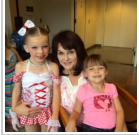
**Patty Vaughn** - January 21, 2019 at 09:33 PM

LW

“ I was one of those teenagers that couldn't sleep at night up at Dinkey Creek after one of her Ghost Stories. I still remember them to this day. Her writing the Book of Mormon play left a lasting impression on my life. I have wonderful memories of her working with my grandmother Virginia Kone and my Mother Doreen Garn with all the plays and melodramas throughout the years. I loved her gum popping and her laughter and thought of her often throughout my life. She was loved so much by our family.

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**Leslie (Garn) Westerfield** - January 20, 2019 at 09:04 AM



“ Our deep sympathies to Lance and his family --- Kay Smith

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**Kay Smith** - January 18, 2019 at 12:44 PM

MB

“ I fondly remember Joycell from my youth as I was cast as Young Mormon in the Book of Mormon play she wrote and directed when I was a Deacon in the Clovis 2nd Ward in the mid 70's. She was funny and always had a cheerful disposition and made me feel loved and appreciated. I still remember my lines from the play. She blessed so many lives and now she is at peace and reunited with family on the other side of the veil. I love you Sister Cooper!

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**Mark Buford** - January 14, 2019 at 11:14 AM

DF

“ I remember the parties my parents used to have at our home years ago. We kids would be banished to the bedroom but as we listened as best we could at the door we loved hearing the wonderful peaks of laughter from dear Joycell. I remember these tiny gold heels she wore that I thought were so beautiful, she had such Amman dainty feet❤️

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**Dixie Forsyth** - January 13, 2019 at 01:10 PM

JM

I've many fond memories of Joycell. One of them was when her and Jack moved to Missouri and stayed at my parents home. We loved the plays she put on. Her example of how to treat people is one that I have tried to follow. Until we meet again....

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**Jean Murie** - January 13, 2019 at 06:44 PM

TS

*Joyce was the life of the party. She was my tent counselor at girls camp and told us stories every night. She wrote the best plays that our stake put on. She was also a great spiritual teacher. I'm so glad they moved to Veyo, Utah. I loved sitting around the dinner table with my parents and the Leavitts and listening to their stories. I always felt her love for me. I think the greatest thing she ever did was having the funnest kids ever! Lots of good-looking boys for the Bingham girls to ooh and awe over. I look forward to sitting by her again and asking her to tell me that one story again!! She wrote the best Christmas letters. When they came in Dad would sit us all down and read them to us. We would all just laugh and laugh.*

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**Tobi Sanders** - January 16, 2019 at 12:08 PM