



Anna Lucille Craig

July 23, 1923 - December 16, 2023

Anna "Ann" Lucille (Gilliam) Craig was born at home near Okemah, Oklahoma on July

23, 1923. Her parents were Robert Gilliam and Nettie Pearl (Webster) Gilliam. Ann

passed away on December 16, 2023, at Prestige Assisted Living in Chico, California.

Five months earlier she had celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends at her

long-time residence in Corning.

The youngest of 8 children, the family farmed the rich soil along the North Canadian

River. Ann attended school in Castle through 8th grade. Money was scarce during the

Great Depression, so a treat was the occasional trip into town where her uncle would

give her 25 cents to see a movie. She preferred westerns. When she was 13 her father

passed away. After 8th grade, walking six miles each way to a high school was not

doable in Oklahoma winters, so she left school for full-time work on the farm. She was

given half-size sacks for picking cotton until she was older and could carry a

full-size

sack. A carry-over from those years on a farm was her expression if someone had

misfortune, "They had a hard row to hoe".

In 1942 Ann moved to Richmond, California to work in the shipyards during World War

II. She was among the women who worked to supply the war effort. Some are remembered in history as "Rosie the Riveter" and "Wendy the Welder." She was a

welder on Liberty ships. The motto of those women was "We Can Do It", which fit her

lifelong work ethic well.

Ann returned to Oklahoma to weld for Douglas Aircraft until the war ended.

Ann then

came back to California and to Corning where she was working as a waitress when she

met Pete Craig, one of the Craig Brothers who had built a Shell station after their

military service. They were married in January 1947. She and Pete began picking

olives to supplement their income and bought a property that included an olive orchard.

The property became home for over 70 years. Beginning in the 50's Ann drove a

school car to transport children from remote areas to West Street School. In 1966 she

and Pete founded the Olive Pit. Ann would be at the business almost every day until

her eyesight forced her to give up driving at age 92.

Among her favorite pastimes were country music and old western movies.

She watched

reruns of Gunsmoke regularly in her final years. Dolly Parton was at the top of Ann's list

in country music.

An avid sports fan, she especially enjoyed attending her children's games.

Because of

their support and involvement, Ann and Pete were honored by students and chosen as

class mom and dad for both Bonnie's and Ron's senior classes. A good day was

anytime the 49ers won, especially if the losing team was Dallas! Her final weekly pick

for the Olive Pit football pool came in first place!

Family and friends were always an important part of her life. She had regular phone

visits with her remaining nieces and nephews in Oklahoma. She felt very close to the

Craig family with roots going back to the Craig Brothers and their parents. Ann was

predeceased by her husband of 58 years Pete Craig who passed away in 2005. She is

survived by son Allan (Terry) in Redding, daughter Bonnie Jackson of Corning, son Ron

(Leeann) of Chico, 8 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, 9 great great-great-grandchildren,

nieces and nephews, and two surviving sisters-in-law.

A life well-lived. Loved and admired, and always in our hearts.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Hall Brothers Corning Mortuary. A graveside service will be held on January 13, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at Sunset Hill Cemetery

in Corning. A reception will follow at the Senior Citizens Hall, 1015 4th Avenue
in

Corning. Family and friends are invited to both.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in her honor to the Corning Volunteer
Fire

Department, 814 5th Street, Corning, 96021.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Hill Cemetery

4470 Oren Avenue
Corning, CA 96201
(530) 824-2255

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JAN 13. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (PT)

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