



Colette Ann Bauer

June 13, 1941 - November 30, 2024

Colette Ann (Inman) Bauer of Los Molinos died Saturday, November 30, 2024, at the age of 83 after an active and productive life which was ended by a long struggle with cancer.

Colette was born Friday, June 13, 1941 in Oroville, CA to William and Susan Inman.

She was the eldest of four children. She was the product of the Oroville elementary school system, the Red Bluff High School system and California State University at Chico where she majored in elementary education.

Colette was a farm girl and worked all of her life, which included a primary school teaching career during which taught the children how to read. She was a master at teaching reading.

Colette was passionate about life – first, passionate about education as a teacher, but equally passionate about family, friends, faith, flowers (both growing and arranging), food (growing and preparing and serving and preserving), sewing, quilting,

and always
about investigating what might be at the end of the next shady backroad.
After teaching in Paskenta for one year, Colette moved into Corning for a few
years
and then moved to Madras, Oregon for ten years where she taught primary
grades at
Metolias Elementary School and mastered the skill of teaching reading.
While in Oregon, Colette applied her very significant sewing skills to making
all of
the clothes her two daughters wore for several years. As a child, she had
been a
member of the local 4-H club and her mother was an excellent seamstress in
her own
right, so there was plenty of instruction in the domestic skills in Colette's life. In
turn, as
an adult, Colette served many years as a 4-H club leader, passing on her
skills to future
generations.
Although she didn't know it at the time, Colette attended the Junior Prom at
Los
Molinos High School with the eventual love of her life, Chris Bauer. They
attended
different high schools but 4-H brought them together, and as new seniors in
their
respective schools, they teamed up to serve as 4-H summer camp directors at
the
relatively new Camp Tehama just off of Mill Creek in the mountains. But, their
lives went
different directions – Colette knew she was going to be a teacher, Chris didn't
know
what he wanted to be, but he wound up teaching high school in Red Bluff and,

it was

just a matter of time before their lives intersected again, thanks to a mutual friend – Burt

Bundy.

Colette and her two daughters were a package deal when she married Chris in 1978

and moved to Los Molinos. He asked her if she wanted a ring to seal the deal and she

said, “No, I want you to build me a house.” They spent the first two years of their

marriage building a house from the ground up. They were married for 46 1/2 years

during which Colette was key to making the house a home.

Upon moving back to California, Colette landed a job teaching primary school at

Reeds Creek Elementary School for two years, and then transferred her skills to Vina

Elementary School where she finished off her very illustrious 43 year teaching career,

retiring in 2007, after also serving as reading specialist for the Los Molinos Elementary

School. She came to realize that perhaps her greatest gift to her community was in

equipping all of the hundreds of children who went through her reading program with the

fundamental survival skill of reading. Carolyn Steffan, who was the 3rd – 4th grade

teaching principal of the school said that, in addition to Colette’s deep knowledge of the

“how” of teaching reading, Colette never gave up on a single student, and so she was instrumental in establishing the Vina reputation for providing excellence in education.

As a natural spin-off of her career in teaching, Colette became a member of the local chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society for women educators. This organization champions causes important to education and important to women in education, working on legislative proposals at the state level, and at the regional and local level by raising money for scholarships for deserving high school and college students who are interested in becoming teachers. Colette served as President from 1994-1995, and she occasionally served on the scholarship committee.

Colette always had flowers and plants in and around the house. She joined the Red Bluff Garden Club to learn more about flower propagation and floral design.

For many years, she blessed the congregations of two churches with weekly floral creations – created mostly with flowers from her own garden. She used to joke that she and God were a team.

Colette’s passion about all aspects of food revolved less around eating it and more about preparing and preserving it so it could be packaged up as gifts – Christmas baskets with jams and jellies, cakes and cookies – she called them “good

health foods,”

birthday baskets and gifts, and so forth. She also provided much of the preserved and

baked goods sold at the annual Tehama County Museum Jubilee (now Rendezvous).

Colette’s passion for shady country roads began as a child with her father’s inquisitive nature which usually landed him, and sometimes his family in the middle of

someone’s backyard or at the edge of someone’s chicken coop with nowhere convenient to turn around. She used to say that she has met some of the most

interesting people at the end of those country roads. She even got a license plate holder

for her car that read “Back roads and chicken yards are byoooootiful.”

Colette was an avid reader, especially of murder mysteries. She practiced what she

preached. (Her husband attributes his habit of sleeping lightly in part to her choices in

reading material.)

Colette is survived by her husband Chris, their two daughters, Stacy Northup (Rick)

and Darcy Bailey; by her sister Coralee Lindauer (Michael), her brother Richard Inman

(Sue) of Central Point, Oregon; her four grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Colette will be buried in the Tehama Cemetery in a private, family service.

Those who knew Colette are invited to the Cone Community United Methodist Church just south of Dairyville on Hiway 99E at 3 PM on December 22, 2024, to join in a

celebration of her life. A dessert social will follow the service in the social hall.

In alignment with her passions, in lieu of flowers, please be generous to the

needs of
your local school's scholarship program, or take a friend to lunch, (or better
yet, fix a
nice dinner and share it with a friend), or donate to your (or her) church youth
program,
or to the Red Bluff Garden Club Scholarship program, or to the Delta Kappa
Gamma
scholarship program. Colette and family are thankful.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC **22**. 3:00 PM (PT)

Cone Community United Methodist Church
11220 HWY 99 E
Los Molinos, CA 96055

Tribute Wall

RG

“ Colette's always smiling face, her cheerfulness, and her always positive outlook were a blessing every time I talked with her. The lovely flower arrangements that she always provided, even in sickness graced the church altar for as long as I can remember. As a teacher, she was a loving influence in the lives of many. She will be greatly missed.

Rena Grotke - December 04, 2024 at 01:34 PM

DS

“ Colette was very caring, smart, sweet, and loved her family very much ❤️ She is my Heavenly cousin on my mom's side. I miss her very much. May she rest in peace 🙏



Darla Smith - December 03, 2024 at 02:41 PM

MH

“ My name is Maryann Harrison. I had Mrs. Bauer for first and second grade. She was the most amazing teachers and a huge reason I became a teacher. I had the pleasure to see her often when I did my student teaching at Los Molinos Elementary. She was doing reading mastery. I also saw her at the Tehama museum celebrations. Recently I went to church with my niece and Mrs. Bauer was there. She shared a story of when I was in her class and how she remembered it all these years and seeing me that day made her so happy to see me. Rest in peace and say hi to my grandma for me. Lots of love the Harrison's and Lucas's.

maryann harrison - December 03, 2024 at 02:15 AM