



## Bernice Russell

September 10, 1921 - March 20, 2022

Bernice Russell was born on September 10, 1921 in Eltopia, WA to Tony and Minnie Hoffman. She was raised on a dry land wheat farm East of Connell, WA. As a child she hated being inside doing housework and getting bossed around by her older sister. She would rather be outside with her dad working around the farm. So she did. Even at an early age she was fiercely independent.

One of the things she was most proud of was the time she got to run the header. This was on a combine pulled by a team of 18 or more horses. The header operator raised or lowered the big mower by turning a wheel like a steering wheel. Set at the proper height, the mower would cut off the heads of the wheat, but as the fields were rarely flat the height had to constantly be adjusted or the big header would plow into the ground. Not everyone got to run the header wheel.

Another thing she was proud of was working in the engine shop at Boeing during the war. They needed workers who had experience with tools. She told them she knew about tools and proved it to them. She was given the job of attaching carburetors on B-17s, one of the few women to work in the engine shop. It was at Boeing she met her future husband and lifelong partner George Russell. Together, they raised a family and built a legacy of which she was the most proud. Nothing was more important to Bernie, as everyone came to call her, than God and family. And you didn't have to be one of her children to be family. She once drove herself to Ephrata to bail a young

dishwasher out of jail for doing something stupid. He was the same one she was always chastising for being late or not working up to her standards. But woe to anyone who messed with her family.

Bernice attended EWU for two years but had to quit early to work on the farm. Eventually she moved to Seattle where she met and married George Russell. After the war they bought a neighborhood grocery store and meat market in the Wedgewood District of Seattle. They loved to golf and spent many happy days on the courses around Seattle. When it became evident a Safeway was to be built across the street they looked for other opportunities. Somehow they chose to build a bowling alley. According to Brunswick, the best choices were Anchorage Alaska or the supposed upcoming boom town of Moses Lake. So in 1957 they built a 16 lane modern Bowling Center, the term alley was not liked at that time. After all this was a modern center with air conditioning and the new automated pinsetters! Together they raised a family and ran the family business until the sudden death of her beloved husband George in 1978. Bernie continued to run the business with her family into her 90s, the first to arrive every day. Unfortunately, though she was incredibly active, mowing the lawn, gardening, caring for grandchildren, doing bookwork, checking up tills, reading and doing crossword puzzles, all the things one is supposed to be doing for mental health, she developed dementia in her mid 90s. At the age of 100, our beloved mother went to heaven to join Jesus and her beloved George, whom she had missed so terribly for so long. She is survived by her children, Beverly Duzon (Henri), Bob Russell (Sherry), Bruce Russell (Marjean), Randy Russell (Linda), and Terri Brice (Bill), 13 Grandchildren and 18 Great Grandchildren. Many thanks to Daisy MeKonen and family for the loving care they provided our Mom.

A graveside service will be held at Pioneer Memorial Garden on Tuesday March 29, 2022 at 2 pm. Following the service will be a Celebration of Life at the Lake Bowl/Ten Pin restaurant.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Alzheimer's Assoc.

# Cemetery Details

## Pioneer Memorial Gardens

14403 Rd. 2 Ne  
Moses Lake, WA

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAR 29. 2:00 PM (PT)

Pioneer Memorial Gardens  
14404 Rd. 2 N.E.  
Moses Lake, WA

# Tribute Wall

DD

“ *What a great loss, my condolences to the Russell family! I have known the Russell's for @ least 60 years now and admire each and every one of them. Mr. and Mrs. Russell raised a very good family, she will be greatly missed by all that knew her and the family.*

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**Dan Durbin** - April 13, 2022 at 04:28 PM

CA

“ *Bernice, and all the Russell family, have been special to Davie (passed) and me since Davie first went to work at Lake Bowl in 1969 when he arrived from Hawaii to attend BBCC. Bernice was always a kind person, along with her husband George. Lake Bowl wasn't just a place to work. Lifelong friendships, due to George and Bernice, were established as they treated us like family. I'm sure they made everyone feel that way. Bev, Henri, Bob, Sherry, Bruce, Marjean, Randy, Linda, Terri and Bill, please accept my condolences and know George and Bernice are missed. Cindy Alporque*

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**Cindy Alporque** - March 31, 2022 at 08:32 PM

PM

“ *What a neat lady! She and George had some great kids! Moses Lake was made better by all of them.*

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**patti mcbee** - March 31, 2022 at 02:16 PM

JC

“ I bowled with her on Thursday after noons she was quit a lady and a bowler and a friend she always had a kind word to everybody who knew her. Sorry for your loss but does she have stories to tell to George. They could go on and on about the Lake Bowl Family and those who bowled there and good laughs also Im glad I got to know her she will be misses.

Jackie Cooper - March 26, 2022 at 02:18 PM

CM

“ What a remarkable lady your mom was. A life well lived and well loved! Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Carol & Brad Mercer - March 25, 2022 at 09:31 PM

LR

“ Bob & Family - condolences for the loss of your Mother. She was certainly a grand woman, and what a long loving life!

Larry & Katie Rigsby - March 25, 2022 at 01:31 PM

RH

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the Russell family, Bernice's obituary reads exactly how I would have envisioned it for this fiercely independent woman that I was fortunate to get to know.  
God Bless  
Rick Hourigan

Rick Hourigan - March 25, 2022 at 11:46 AM

DC

“ Bev and family...  
My sincere condolences to you all on losing your Mother. She was a great Russel Family Matriarch. May her soul RIP...

Delores F Carvalho - March 25, 2022 at 06:31 AM

TA

“ *Bev, Terri and Russell Family, our deepest condolences for the loss of your mother. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Trina and Luis Alfaro*



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**Trina Alfaro** - March 24, 2022 at 08:14 PM

PL

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Russell family, Bernice was a wonderful lady and will be missed by many. May she rest in peace.*



*Pat Ledbetter  
Moses Lake, Wa.*

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**Pat Ledbetter** - March 24, 2022 at 04:59 PM

EW

“ *My grandma, Esther Carpenter, worked at Lake Bowl for as long as I can remember. She made sure we all knew how to bowl, so Bernie was also a fixture in my life growing up. She was a wonderful lady*



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**Ericka (Carpenter) Warren** - March 24, 2022 at 04:08 PM

CH

“ I bowled with Mrs. Russell years ago every Tuesday night. 😍 So many memories. She was an awesome bowler & an amazing business woman. Reading the obituary I learned so much more than I thought I knew. 😍  
RIP Mrs. Russell.



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**Carole Hopkins** - March 24, 2022 at 11:42 AM

JL

“ Joan (Carpenter) Lobie lit a candle in memory of Bernice Russell



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**Joan (Carpenter) Lobie** - March 23, 2022 at 08:07 PM