



## Margaret J Crane

July 31, 1920 - March 28, 2022

Margaret Jean Crane died peacefully on March 28, 2022, at home with her daughters: Mary “Biz”, Trudy, and beloved caregiver, Maria Theresa at her side. She was born on July 31, 1920, in Tacoma, WA, to Gregor and Irma McKinnon, an only child. She grew up as the much doted on child, in a household of her parents and unmarried Aunts: Bess and Jen, in Sumner, WA. Her Aunt Bess was a librarian and MJ became and remained a prodigious reader. Her father worked the night shift at the Fleischmann’s Yeast factory. During the day, she worked alongside her parents in their plant nursery, developing a work ethic and physical strength that carried her almost to her 102nd birthday.

MJ graduated from Sumner High School at age 15 and went on to Pacific Lutheran College at age 16. In her early 20’s, she was hired as the bookkeeper for Art Norman’s Furniture Store in Tacoma, and became best friends with Art’s sister-in-law, Pat Crane. This is how she came to meet her future husband, Francis. Francis and Margaret Jean were married in Sumner on February 7, 1944.

MJ and Francis came back to Brewster not long after marrying, to take over the family business. They incorporated Crane & Crane, Inc. in 1973. MJ worked as a bookkeeper for the business, and they had five children: Margaret “Trudy”, Peter, Jonathan, Barclay and Mary “Biz”. MJ seemed to have limitless energy, as a parent and business partner, with a multitude of child related activities including: Camp Fire Girls and Boy Scouts. She was

known for staying up all night canning fruits and vegetables, reupholstering furniture, or sewing her daughter's new clothing, only to continue on to a full day of work without complaint.

Her daughter, Trudy, had a disabling car accident in 1973. MJ and Francis took on the raising of their grandchildren: Karin and Katherine, in addition to Trudy's long rehabilitation. Her son, Jonathan, died in 1982, after a difficult battle with cancer. Margaret Jean went door to door soliciting donations for cancer research in hope to prevent such a tragedy for others. She was very active in St. James Episcopal Church in Brewster, until the closure and sale by the diocese. She worked as a volunteer for Douglas County with voter registration and in person voting. She and Francis traveled extensively, including to China after it opened to the public, in 1972. They were accompanied by their good friends on some of these trips.

Margaret Jean loved her garden and gardening. She kept flower beds on the Crane property for many years. More than anything, MJ loved her Great Danes: Missy, Bessie, and Duchess.

The family would like to say a special thank you to all of Margaret's friends and caregivers, including: Maria Soria, Maria Rivera, Gabina, John, Cindy Kennel, Cindy Schmidt, Robyn, Lynn, Yani and Frontier Hospice. They would also like to thank members of the local community who brought Margaret Jean joy during her later years.

Margaret Jean is survived by children: Margaret Roose "Trudy", Peter, Barclay, and Mary "Biz" Crane; grandchildren: Katherine Harris and Karin Brammer (Trudy), Rachel Sullivan, Kaylan Farrow (Peter), Elizabeth McDaniel, Jennifer, Daniel (Barclay), Hana, Saba, and Kirubel Zewdie (Mary); great-grandchildren: Aria and Diego (Katherine), Margie (Karin), Gregor, Ruth, Sloan, Margo (Rachel), Eleanor (Elizabeth) and Whitman (Jennifer). Margaret Jean dearly loved all her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Memorial service will be held at the Stone Church in Brewster (formerly St. James), 515 W. Indian Ave., Brewster, WA, on May 14, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. A light lunch reception will follow the memorial at The River House, 912 South

Bridge St., Brewster, WA.

Donations can be made to the Jonathan Crane Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Washington Apple Education Foundation (WAEF), 2900 Euclid Ave., Wenatchee, WA. Please place your thoughts and memories at [www.barneschapel.com](http://www.barneschapel.com). Services have been entrusted to Barnes Chapel of Brewster, WA.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 14. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT)

Previously St. James Episcopal Church  
515 W. Indian Avenue  
Brewster, WA 98812

# Tribute Wall



“ *Margaret J Crane*

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January 29, 2023 at 08:49 AM

KJ

“Hi, my name is Kevin Johnson. I thought I would use this platform to give tribute to Margaret Jean, Francis, and the Crane family. But first, a little history. My father, John Johnson, was field superintendent for Crane Orchards from the early 1950's until retiring in the late 1980's. Our families grew up together. The Cranes (Peter, Trudy, John, Barclay, and Biz) and the Johnson's (Terry, Claudia, Tim, Kevin, Lisa, and Keith), were truly a baby boomer generation. We all experienced the Columbia River before Wells Dam, with Spring floods and a river full of steelhead and white fish. We all experienced the relocation of the old homestead to upcountry as Well's Dam flooded the valley. We all experienced the expansion of Crane Orchards as sagebrush was planted to new varieties of apples and pears. We experienced growing family gardens side by side. We all experienced the many harvests, packing facility expansions and shed fires. We all experienced the burning of the Brewster Bridge, cutting off our access to supplies and school. We all experienced school sports, drama, music, hunting, fishing, and Scouts. This environment, and my Father's career as an orchardist, was all because of Francis and Margaret Jean Crane. Their kindness and support of our family over the years is without precedent. Dad was always well treated as an employee, and was generously compensated with bonuses when the harvest was good. When Dad smashed his heels jumping from a falling stack of apple bins, Francis and Margaret Jean stood behind his slow recovery. In his post retirement years, he was given light duty assignments to keep him involved in the orchard doings. When Dad passed, Francis and Margaret Jean told our Mom (Mary Johnson) she could stay at the Ranch house "as long as she wanted". I could go on, but the point is well made. Francis and Margaret Jean Crane were icons in the community, and in my eyes. They represented honesty and good family values. They represented respect for others and when a handshake meant something. They represented when hard work and good effort was appreciated and rewarded. With Margaret Jean's passing, a long chapter has ended. But memories of growing up on the Crane Ranch are still vivid for me as time goes on. In closing, I wish the Crane Family and the Johnson

*Family the health and longevity of our Mothers (Mary is 98 1/2) and to remember the Crane and Crane Orchards as a truly remarkable place. -Kevin Johnson*

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**Kevin Johnson** - May 09, 2022 at 11:46 PM

KJ

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Kevin Johnson** - May 09, 2022 at 10:27 PM

DM

“ *Dave McNamara lit a candle in memory of Margaret J Crane*



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**Dave McNamara** - April 22, 2022 at 06:02 PM

TS

“ *To the Crane family, you have my deepest condolences. With fondest memories, Tom Sampson*

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**Thomas Sampson** - April 19, 2022 at 01:03 PM

TJ

“ *Rest In Peace Margaret Jean. Such fond memories of hanging around at your home with Mary Biz. Treva Schulke Joines*

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**Treva Schulke Joines** - April 19, 2022 at 12:09 PM

TG

“ *Trudi Gamble lit a candle in memory of Margaret J Crane*



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**Trudi Gamble** - April 18, 2022 at 11:09 PM