



Lois "Maxine" Rathjen

January 17, 1934 - August 31, 2022

Lois "Maxine" Rathjen, age 88 of Fort Calhoun, NE.

Born: January 17, 1934, Crofton, NE.

Died: August 31, 2022, Blair, NE.

Lois Maxine Woodring Rathjen was born to Allie Brice and Lois Ethel Salmon Woodring

on January 17, 1934, in Crofton, Nebraska. She was the fifth in a family of six children.

Before she was three years old, her family moved to Blair and her dad became a

member of the Blair City Police Department.

Maxine had entertaining stories about growing up on Grant Street and all the escapades

of the neighborhood kids. She was proud of being a Girl Scout Brownie and still carried

her official membership card. As a teenager, she had a "hair route," bobby pinning

several neighbor ladies' hair. Maxine also worked the candy counter at the Home

Theatre. A Saturday night drive with friends and a stop at the Ft. Calhoun Conoco gas

station was a turning point in her life. There she met Jack Rathjen, later eloping on Aug.

13, 1951, and honeymooning in Okoboji, Iowa. The couple recently observed their 71st wedding anniversary.

Two children were born to this union: daughter, Lois and son, Bill. When Bill was in high school, Maxine became a cook at the Ft. Calhoun elementary school cafeteria and later at the high school cafeteria. She worked for fifteen years and cherished the staff and students. Every year, she anticipated baking Thanksgiving turkeys in the early morning hours. In retirement, she and Jack put many miles on their Buick traveling to grandchildren's sporting events. Yearly highlights include driving to Okoboji, the Iowa State Fair, the annual Steam Threshers Reunion in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island. When traveling was no longer possible, Maxine loved watching golf on TV. Maxine was the last survivor of her immediate family of five siblings, their spouses, and ten of her nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by: parents, Allie Brice and Lois Ethel Woodring, sisters, Mildred (John) Swingholm, Helen (Darrel) Kriens, Marlene (Maurice) White, brothers, Arnold (Kaye) Woodring, Brice Jr. (June) Woodring, nieces, Julie Joons, Jackie Stewart, Barbara Hopfenzitz, Donna Gardener, Gayle Robertson, Jo Booth, nephews, Robert Richter, John Swingholm and Steve White.

Survived by: husband, John "Jack" Rathjen, Ft. Calhoun, NE, daughter, Lois (Norlan) Rasmussen, Audubon, IA, son, Bill (Glenda) Rathjen, Ft. Calhoun, NE, grandchildren, Leslie (Chad) Gorman, Stephanie (Jacob) Anderson, Anna

(John) Strohm and James Rathjen, great-grandchildren, Jack, Tyce, Maddox, Luke, Abigail, John, Kade and Sophie, nieces, Marcia Devore and Gloria Drummond,
nephews, Dave (Connie) Woodring, Don (Linda) Woodring, Duane (Shelly) Woodring, Mary (Ned) Miller and Jerry Uehling.

FUNERAL SERVICES: Private Family.

INURNMENT: Fort Calhoun Cemetery.

IN LIEU OF TRADITIONAL REMEMBRANCES, Memorials Suggested To:
Fort Calhoun Fire and Rescue or Fort Calhoun Presbyterian Church.

Sievers-Sprick Funeral Home

Fort Calhoun, NE 68023

402-468-5678

www.sieverssprickfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

DF

“ I have many fond memories of Maxine from birthday parties at their little gray house to seeing her at school projects through the years. She always seemed to enjoy life.

Dave Freburg - September 14, 2022 at 10:19 PM

CG

“ I enjoyed being a student worker in the kitchen at Fort Calhoun with Mrs. Rathjen, she was pleasant and a very good cook. I do remember her and the other ladies putting in a great deal of effort near Thanksgiving, with roaster set all through the school, baking turkey. Smelled wonderful. A very nice woman. Have thought of her often through the years, and always with a smile.

Connie Green - September 09, 2022 at 11:46 AM

MS

I will miss her smile and sweet voice. She was an amazing beautiful woman who I loved to visit with.

Mary Scott - September 10, 2022 at 04:14 PM

LB

“ I have a lot of memory Lois as a cook at the high school class of 1978 Is was like a mom to each one. Leonard Baxter

Leonard Baxter - September 06, 2022 at 05:13 PM

PT

“ Pearl Thunn lit a candle in memory of Lois
"Maxine" Rathjen



Pearl Thunn - September 06, 2022 at 11:11 AM

DB

“ Lots of memories of Maxine during her years of cooking for my
children at the Fort Calhoun High School.
So sorry for your loss.

Debbie Bonacci - September 04, 2022 at 04:03 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased
for the family of Lois "Maxine" Rathjen.



September 03, 2022 at 11:43 AM