

## MY BIO BY DELORES KEMP BELL

On October 10, 1938 in Slaton, Texas this delightful little bundle of joy was delivered to Lawrence and Johnnie Kemp. They called her Delores Ann Kemp. Yes, it was me. 1939 brought a move from Texas to the Quay Valley. My brother, Billy, and I were the only children for a while. I had one brother, RJ, who died at thirteen months of age in 1934 of a childhood illness. But as luck would have it we had to share our parents with Wanda, born in 1940 and Rosalie in 1942.

Billy and I started to school at Quay with Mrs. Myrtle Alexander as our teacher in that wonder little one room schoolhouse. We moved to Tucumcari and attended school at the old Four Points School. We then moved to a ranch at Conches, NM and for a couple of years we attended school at Trementina, NM. After that we moved back to Tucumcari where I graduated in 1957.

After graduation Jerry Bell and I married on June 1, 1957. Jerry was a painting contractor who worked with his dad. After apartment living for a while we bought our home at 1308 South Monroe where we have raised our family. We were blessed with three boys and one daughter, Jerry Dale, Billy Don, Rhonda Jean, and Larry Dean. All four of our children graduated from Tucumcari High School. Jerry Dale lives in Las Vegas, New Mexico and has raised his family of two sons there. Billy Don lives in Dimmit, Texas and has three children, one daughter and two sons. Larry Dean died in a car accident in 1993 and left his two sons, one who is the father of one of our great granddaughters. Rhonda and her husband, Randy, lives in Tucumcari and has one daughter who is the mother of three of our great grandchildren. We lost their son, Clinton, in a freak car accident in 2004.

My brother, Billy, has lived with us since my mother's death. Caring for my family has always been part of my life. Jerry and I have always had an open door for any and all of our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. We have been so fortunate that they all feel welcome at any time.

I have worked much of our married life and have always enjoyed seeing new friends and old. I have worked as a hostess for many years. Working brings a balance to my life and keeps me interested in what goes on around me.

I worked on the Rattler Reunion Board and served as the president for many years after our twentieth reunion. Rattler reunion is an on going labor of love. Many of us have given years of labor and love to reunion to make it happen for all of those who come back to enjoy it.

God has blessed me the joys of being a wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother. I've also been blessed to have so many friends to go along with my great family. Life is good.

