



Ruth Helen (Uponen) Barens

March 13, 1933 - October 16, 2014

Ruth Helen (Uponen) Barens, age 81, of Rudyard, Michigan, died Thursday, October 16, 2014, in Clare County, Michigan. She was born March 13, 1933 in Rudyard.

Ruth was the youngest of twelve children born to John and Aini (Laitala) Uponen on the family farm in Rudyard. She attended Rudyard Schools and graduated at the age of 16 after skipping ahead grades. At the age of 18, she moved to Saginaw for work. Her dream was to be a secretary. Over her lifetime, Ruth progressed in her career holding positions including Executive Assistant to a bank president and university professors. As a military wife, Ruth lived in Europe for a few years and delivered her children in Paris, France and Frankfurt, Germany. She also visited Finland, the country of all of her ancestors. Later in life, she and her husband Joseph Barens, owned and operated "The Log Jam" bar in Rudyard.

Ruth was a longtime member of the Moose Lodge Auxiliary.

Ruth enjoyed music, dancing, and singing. At times people would clear the dance floor to watch Ruth and Joe dance. She also enjoyed reading and flower gardening. Ruth loved her yard and well into her seventies, she would beat back the encroaching woods with her riding mower, chain saw, and loppers.

Ruth is survived by her son, Gary (Diane) Maki of Farwell, Michigan; her daughter, Barbara (Doug) Maki Mollsen of Lansing, Michigan; grandchildren, Rachel Hart, Troy (Marcie) DisBrow, and Chad (Carmen) DisBrow; and great grandchildren, Mason, Cameron, Mattison, Matthew, and Eva Pearl. She is also survived by one brother, Reino (June) Uponen of Rudyard, and many nieces and nephews.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Joseph Barens; brothers, Sulo, Martin, Edwin, and Oiva "Jack" Uponen; and sisters, Elma Schminkey, Esther Cowman, Gertie Augustson, Martha Wilman, Dagmar Nayback, and Miriam Welcher.

A memorial service will be held Friday, November 7 at 1:00 P.M. at R. Galer Funeral Home, 24549 S. M-129 in Pickford, Michigan.

Interment will be in North Rudyard Cemetery.

Contributions in memory of Ruth may be made to your favorite charity.

Cemetery Details

North Rudyard Township Cemetery

15141 S Tilson Rd
Rudyard, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth Helen (Uponen) Barens*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Ruth Helen (Uponen) Barens*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Ruth Helen (Uponen) Barens*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Gary and Barb,
I just recently learned of Aunt Ruth's passing and I am very sorry for
your loss. She was a nice aunt and pretty. Take care.
Mary Cowman (Esther's daughter)*

Mary Cowman - December 20, 2014 at 04:50 PM



“ *The one memory was when I stayed in Lansing for a week and
babysat when I was about 12 I think. I had so much fun meeting the
neighbors and a boy even had a crush on me. Aunt Ruth was so
much fun taking us roller skating, to the movie, McD's, etc. I cried all
the way home on the bus because I wanted to stay there. Your mom
was the best. When I moved to Lansing after graduation she helped
me out too. As a friend said to me she was so pretty. I thank her for
the memories and you too Barb and Gary.
Love, Gloria*

Gloria Nayback - November 20, 2014 at 11:16 AM

JH

“ *My deepest sympathies to Miss Ruth's family. She was quite a woman! Rest in Peace, Miss Ruth. Baamaapii Miss Ruth. ~ Jamie (McCoy) Harvey and Family.*

Jamie Harvey - October 30, 2014 at 07:17 AM