



# *Norma Nichols*

*June 23, 1941 - September 20, 2011*



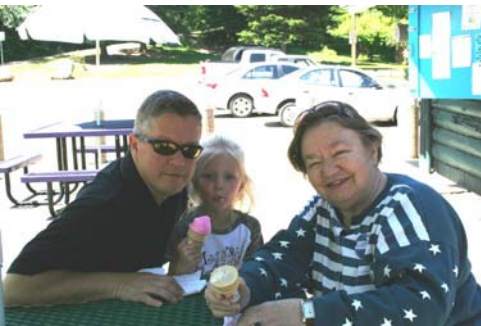
Norma Jean was born at home to Betty and Willard Berry in Riley County, Kansas. Norma was the older of two daughters, survived by her sister Wilma.

Norma attended the Riley County Rural School District and Graduated from Riley County High School. Norma married Larry Bennington in 1957 and gave birth to two children. Diana Lynn Thurlow and her husband Michael of Bonner Springs, Kansas. David Layne Bennington and his wife Betsy Bennington of Dallas, Texas. She is also the proud grandmother of Samantha Layne Bennington age 7.

During the next fifteen years Norma worked as wife and mother to her family. Norma and Larry had homes in Manhattan, KS., Whiting, IN., Tulsa, OK., Casper, WY., and Raytown, MO. Norma and Larry were divorced in 1976. Norma married Richard "Dick" Nichols in 1977 and had two step children, Penny and Brent Nichols. Norma and Dick lived in Cheyenne, WY until their divorce several years later.

Norma moved to the Sheridan area where she has lived the last 25+ years of her life. Her professional career included: National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Wyoming Business Rendezvous, State of Wyoming Economic Development Board, Chamber of Commerce for multiple cities, NJN Enterprises, and the Sheridan Heritage Center.

Norma was best known for her ability to always see the glass not as half full, but as always three quarters full. She had a friendly smile and a polite manner that allowed her to make friends easily and be an exceptional business woman. Norma never met a stranger.



### *Footprints*

One night I had a dream. I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and across the skies flashed scenes from my life. In each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One was mine, and one was the Lord's.

When the last scene of my life appeared before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand, and to my surprise I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints. And I noticed that it was at the lowest and saddest times in my life.

I asked the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I notice that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why you left my side when I needed you most."

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and would never leave. During your times of trial and suffering, where you see only one set of footprints, I was carrying you."

### *Safely Home*

I am home in Heaven, dear ones;

Oh, so happy and so bright!  
There is perfect joy and beauty

In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief is over,  
Every restless tossing passed;

I am now at peace forever,  
Safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly  
Trode the valley of the shade?

Oh! but Jesus' love illumined  
Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me

In that way so hard to tread;  
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,  
Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely,

For I love you dearly still:

Try to look beyond earth's shadows,

Pray to trust our Father's Will.

There is work still waiting for you,

So you must not idly stand;

Do it now, while life remaineth—  
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed,

He will gently call you Home;

Oh, the rapture of that meeting,

Oh, the joy to see you come!



In Loving Memory of

## Norma Jean Nichols

DATE OF BIRTH

DATE OF DEATH

June 23, 1941 — September 20, 2011  
Riley County, Kansas Sheridan, WY

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Saturday, September 24 at 10:00 am  
Kane Funeral Home

### OFFICIATING

Reverend Kevin Jones

### MUSIC

When I Get Where I'm Going  
Go Rest High On The Mountain  
Amazing Grace

### HONORARY PALLBEARS

Family and Friends to numerous to mention.

**A gathering of family and friends will be held at the Sheridan Inn following the service. *Donations for Norma's monument and in her memory may be made to Cowboy State Bank and Trust.***

