



Clara Mae Owen

September 13, 1934 - January 19, 2023

Clara Mae (Moss) Owen (88), died after an illness on January 19, 2023. Clara was born in Hulbert Oklahoma, Cherokee county, the youngest of 4 children born to Emma and Millard Fillmore Moss. She is survived by her nephew, Dana Winegarner and his wife Karen Winegarner, their children Andrew Winegarner and his wife Leanna, Karalyne Winegarner and Rebekah Winegarner. Her parents, siblings and husband preceded her in death. Clara was introduced to the 'love of her life' Oscar Owen by a classmate and they were married on June 1, 1952, the year she graduated highschool. They started their married life in Jay, Oklahoma, where Oscar worked for the Forestry Department and Clara worked at the county health department. In 1954, they bought land near Hanson road on the outskirts of Sallisaw and by 1955 moved into the home that Oscar had built on the land. Over the years they would add onto the house as well as add outbuildings but always seemed to enjoy just being home

improving the land or raising livestock.

Clara started her work career in Sallisaw working for the Sequoyah County Times for 4 years

after which she took a job with the lime company in Marble City for the next 31 years of her

career. Then, after 31 years in Marble City, she was forced to change jobs as they looked for

'younger' talent. She worked temp jobs for a year or so until she landed a job as a payroll clerk

for LTC services in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. Her honesty, punctuality, spunk and forthrightness kept

her a valuable employee for 25 years, until she retired in March of 2022 at the age of 87.

Clara and Oscar established themselves as hard working, good hearted, Christian folk. Oscar

and Clara worked for many years managing the rural water district in addition to their regular

day jobs. They also spent many a weekend fixing up and caring for the property of the old

Bethel Baptist Church at its original location in Sallisaw on Creek Avenue, both doing repairs on

the inside and mowing the property every weekend. After Oscar's passing in 1994, Clara

continued the work at the church by coming early on Sunday's and preparing breakfast for all

the children coming for Sunday school. Clara also enjoyed collecting antiques and for a time

did managing estate sales in her spare time finding treasures and adding to her own collection

of beautiful things.

Clara was always a softie for the wandering dog or cat that appeared on her

property. She took
in both cats and dogs over the years, always naming them with the prefix,
“MR....” Her beloved
two dogs passed away last year, but her beautiful persian cat, Mr. Clean was
her constant
companion even in her final days.
Although Clara and Oscar had no children, she became the special ‘grandma’
to her nephew
and his wife’s (Dana and Karen Winegarner) three children. They loved
visiting Clara, climbing
on the hay bales stacked in the pasture, wandering on the acreage picking up
pecans, climbing
trees or going to the pond. Clara’s candid demeanor and independence was a
trait that was
admired and emulated by all the children and that persona lasted until the
very end. She will be
sorely missed by her family, friends and co-workers but we can rejoice with
her, being now in the
presence of Our Lord and Savior.

Tribute Wall

LS

“ We will miss you Aunt Clara but relieved that you are no longer in discomfort and now with your beloved Oscar. We look forward to seeing you again when it's our time. Love always from Leanna and Andrew

Leanna Sumi-Winegarner - January 25, 2023 at 09:36 PM

KD

I live in her old house she and her husband owned an ice cream truck from the 1970s full of valuables, correct?

Kyrie'Ahna Daniels - March 08, 2025 at 03:55 PM