



Kathleen Branchflower Besse

K-B, Denny and Betty Besse Family Endowment

Alfred and Kathleen (Branchflower) Besse braved the depression of the thirties opening the K-B Café in 1931 in Starkweather, North Dakota. Kathleen had a passion for making quality fresh home-made food. Her husband, Al, was willing to help with the day-to-day work along with raising a huge garden that would supply fresh fruits and veggies throughout the year.

Sunday lunches were a family day of working together to serve a wonderful home-cooked meal with fresh bread, apple pie for dessert, and a lot of love. Grandma K-B loved cooking and went nonstop from as early as four o'clock a.m. until nine o'clock at night.

The café that opened in 1931

moved to a different building in 1934. In 1949 the café burned down but was rebuilt the following year.

Denny Besse was the only son of Kathleen and Alfred Besse. He loved construction and was a jack of all trades always open for new adventures. He married Betty Jean (Olson) Besse, and they lived between Starkweather and Devils Lake their entire married life. They had farm land, a gas station, and a steel siding, seamless gutter, and grain bin-building business.

Denny taught at Lake Region State College (then Lake Region Community College) and was a wonderful craftsman building cabinets and a house in Devils Lake. But what Denny and Betty Jean were

most proud of building was their family.

Together, they instilled great work ethic, respect, and kindness to all and a strong faith. Betty was a caregiver to her very core. She raised seven children, cared for any ailing family members, worked in the gas station, and loved to garden. She could change and fix a tire faster than most men.

The family retired and closed their café in the early 1990s and moved to Mesa, Arizona, where they had a small wood working shop to tinker and make things for family and friends. Betty was

able to garden and spend most days outside. They loved the family bond of weekly phone calls and visits.

Denny died in 2009 and Betty in 2016.

They left a legacy of twenty-four grandchildren, and the number of great-grandchildren continues to grow. The best way to describe this Besse family is “STRONG WORK ETHIC.”

Their seven children—Kathy, Bruce, Fred, Bev, Donna, Pam, and Jon—did not hesitate to establish this endowment in memory of be-

loved family members. *“We all believe our parents and grandparents would love to be honored this way.”* ●



Denny and Betty Besse

