

## **Etha Dawn Orris Thornton**

Her ashes are spread over her daughter's grave who was Kim Lynn Thornton.

Etha Dawn Orris Thornton was 16 when I, (Marynella Gabriel ...later Kinnard) at age 15, met her at our H.S. Bus Stop in K.C., MO. (1951) She was 5'6" tall, had big brown eyes and a dark complication, plus a bubbly personality all of her life. She was born in Manhattan, Riley Co, KS. Her father: Sidney Albert King and her mother: Bertha Sondonia Cranes King.

She married my brother (Mack Thomas Thornton) June 14, 1954 at her parents' home. Her step-dad was minister in the Reorganized Later Day Church. Her mom a druggist at Katz Drugs. Dawn loved horses. We rode on the week-ends near Swope Park. While teens, we visited my farm relatives in North AR. come summertime and rode all over Searcy Co. with my cousins and swam in the Buffalo River.

Dawn and Mack had five children: Mark Jason, Kim Lynn, Theresa Gale, William Patrick and Kelly Mack. Three of her children preceded her in death: Mark w/a Heart Attack, Kim with Pneumonia and Terri with Cancer.

Mack and Dawn enjoyed 60 years of marriage and were soul mates. They traveled while he was in the Marines (13 years) and Army (another 7 years). They lived at Oceanside, CA; Myrtle Bch., SC; Hollywood Beach, FL; Security, CO; Enterprise, AL; and in Germany during Mack's military years. They owned a home near Welaka, Putnam Co, FL for about 30 years.

While Mack was a staid sober type person, Dawn was always a happy, laughing, sparkling person. They welcomed friends & family with open arms (always). They had horses at that last home near Welaka. Her favorite was Freckles and they rode in local parades. Freckles was famous, locally, for liking to stop at a corner store for a Pepsi or Coke Cola. She'd raise her head up so Dawn could pour the cold drink down her throat after a parade.

About in their 50's --Dawn and Mack took up a hobby of making jewelry due to having visited a mine in NC owned by friends. He became a Silver Smith and she a Silver and Gold Wire Wrapping and Sculpture Artist. Some they became good at their art, they were teaching classes locally in Central Florida and each year at the William Holland School of Lapidary near Young Harris, GA each year. They taught for over 15 years and became friends with people from all over the world through their art.