

Obituary

Rita Marie Snipe Wettenbone, 67



Rita Marie Snipe Wettenbone, 67, of Fort Hall, Idaho passed away Wednesday, February 23, 2011.

Rita was born January 31, 1944 to Ester Lousie Miles of Pendleton, Oregon and Danielson Snipe of Fort Hall, Idaho. She grew up in Pendleton, Oregon on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. When she was about 14 years old, she moved to Idaho with her father, Dan. She also lived with Edith Honena, her grandmother, and helped raise Sharon Johnson, Vernaldo "Toe", Wesley "Wishbone" Sr., Nathan, Bert, Leo and Buddy Honena. In her later teenage years, she lived with a good friend, Nancy Eschief, who talked her into finishing her schooling. They both went to Haskell when it was a high school and received their high school diplomas.

In 1966 she met Larry Teton and had her daughter, Julia. Rita met Delford Wettenbone around 1970 and in 1974 they were married. Together they had three girls, Jessica, Nadine and Wendy. They were blessed with having the opportunity to raise Trevor Tissidimit from the time he was a newborn.

They farmed and ran a cattle ranch on the Fort Hall bottoms. They ran all the equipment to provide hay for their horses and cattle. In her later years, she still love to run the baler. In her free time, she enjoyed playing hand games, traveling, playing bingo, sewing, participating in parades and watching and betting on live horse races.

She believed in teaching her family the Native American way of life. She was fluent in the Shoshoni language. She enjoyed traditional dancing, especially men's fancy dancing.

Rita is survived by her children, Julia Teton (Kevin) Bagley, Jessica Wettenbone, Nadine Wettenbone and Trevor Tissidimit all of Gibson, Idaho; half-brothers, Samuel (Pricilla) Snipe, Dennis "Soupie" Snipe both of Gibson and Gail (Brenda) Shippentower of Pendleton, Oregon; grandchildren, Kleve Broncho Sr., Jade Broncho, Tyler Auck, Tommie Auck, Nada Bear, Harry Bear, Del Wettenbone, Kaine Callahan, Janice Hootchew; great grandchildren, Kleve Broncho Jr., Te-ahara Anderson, Akillez Anderson, Sky Jamze Cree Medicine and Shelbie Cree Medicine, Abrielle Wilson and Makyla Wilson. She had a big part of raising her grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Delford Wettenbone; daughter, Wendy Wettenbone; maternal grandfather, James Miles Sr. (who was a member of the Chief Joseph Band and participated in the "Trail of Tears"); paternal grandfather, John E. Snipe; paternal grandmother, Jessie Boise Snipe; maternal step father, Lawrence "Ham" Patrick; aunts, Dorthy Miles, Anna Miles and Rose Snipe Coby; uncles, James Jimmy Miles Jr., Calvin Snipe, Dalton "Boat" Snipe and Merthin Snipe Sr.; sister, Rose Marie Snipe; half sisters, Linda Snipe Jimmy and Beverly Ann Snipe; half brother, Reynold "Randy" Snipe and niece, Nonika Shippentower.

Rita will be taken to her residence on Bench Road on Friday morning, February 25, 2011 and will remain there until Monday. Traditional burial services will take place at 1:00 p.m. Monday, February 28, 2011 at the Gibson Cemetery. Services under the care of Hawker Funeral Home. Condolences may be sent to the family at condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com.