



## **BEULAH (BOOTS) GRAVES**

January 30, 1927 to May 19, 2006

Jennie and Roy Trevathan gave birth to Beulah (nicknamed Boots) on January 30, 1927 in Kansas. Boots had two older sisters, Fern and Iris.

The family worked in agriculture in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Arkansas until 1944. They then moved from Bentonville, AR, where they were chicken pluckers, to Sunnyvale, CA, where they worked at the Libby Foods cannery. Boots started work as a young teenager and was only 17 when she came to California.

She met Ward Graves and married him in 1946 after he returned from WWII with a serious head wound and after Boots had survived a bout of polio that left one leg weak. In 1947, they bought the house at 10170 Amelia Court in Cupertino, where Boots lived until her death on May 19, 2006. She and her husband were divorced in 1967.

Boots made friends with her neighbors and one of them, Eaten Baker, saw Boots' intelligence and got her to quit her cannery job and take a job with Ames Aeronautical Labs in about 1952. She kept this job for about 6 years and then went to school at De Anza College and received an AA degree as a teacher's aid. After graduation she then worked in education for the next 15 years.

Boots loved to garden and hired Hy Pham, a De Anza student, in the early 1980s to help her. They became close friends and Boots considered Hy to be her son. Hy married Bich Hoang and they had two children, Thomas and Kevin. The family called Boots mom and grandma respectively, and gave her great pleasure over their many years together.

Boots loved animals and had many cats and dogs. The dogs Sparkie, Mertzy and Shoney were so precious to her that she had them cremated when they died and they will be buried with her. Bich's family has a dog named Lucky that also gave Boots much pleasure in her final days.

Boots was a strong, independent woman and a good friend. Although she will be missed, she will not be forgotten.