

Survival by Margaret Moore Meuttman

Read at the end of each broadcast day on the stations of the Z Network in Butte Montana, where Ruby worked the late shift as a waitress

*A thousand years from this tonight
When Orion climbs the sky,
The same swift snow will still the roofs,
The same mad stars run by.
And who will know of China's War,
Or poison gas in Spain?
The dead—they'll be forgotten, lost,
Whether they lose or gain.
Of all the brilliant strategies
Of war-lords now alive,
Perhaps a Chinese iris vase
Of porcelain may survive—
Perhaps a prayer, perhaps a song,
Fashioned of love and tears,
But only beauty—only truth
Will last a thousand years.*

Edward FitzGerald's translation of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

*The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.*

Ruby Julia Berning Fitzgerald



Date of Birth
September 25, 1920
Hazel Green Township,
Wisconsin

Date of Death
July 5, 2016
St. Paul, Minnesota

Memorial Service
Saturday, August 27, 2016 at 11:00
Visitation 10:00 to 11:00 AM
Johnson Peterson Funeral Home
2130 2nd St.
White Bear Lake, Minnesota

Officiating
Daniel Fitzgerald Jr.
Grandson of Ruby

Meal after service
2250 6th St.
White Bear Lake, Minnesota

Interment
Thursday, September 1, 2016
Fort Snelling National Cemetery
Minneapolis, Minnesota
(meet at Assembly Area 1 at 12:45 PM)

Beloved mother of John (Marilyn Haug) Fitzgerald, Janice (Jim) Dobson, Daniel (Rosalie) Fitzgerald, Loren Fitzgerald, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Valerie Fitzgerald (Richard Germundsen) and David Fitzgerald. Grandmother of Danny, Emily, Ashley, Eric, Liberty and Holly. Great Grandmother of Brady, Ella Rose, Evey, Owen, Cadence, Isaac, Eli, Jonah, Lilliana, Taylor and Emmett. Sister of Melvin (Lee) Berning.

Ruby Julia Berning was born September 25, 1920, on her grandparents' farm in Hazel Green Township, Wisconsin. Ruby was one of 13 children born to August and Christina Berning. She spent the first 10 years of her life in Dubuque, Iowa. In about 1933, the family returned to their farm near Berlin, North Dakota. She would go through grade school and high school there. Ruby was the first in her family to graduate from high school, and she was the salutatorian. She also received a full scholarship to Jamestown college near her home. Even with all the academic expenses paid, there was not enough money in 1938 for Ruby to get a college education.

After high school, Ruby went to nursing school. She also spent some time in Montana. In 1946, her childhood friend, Miles Horsager, returned from WWII. They soon married and started a family. Later they would take the family name of Miles' mother, Marie Fitzgerald. From North Dakota, they moved briefly to California. They returned to North Dakota for a short time, then moved to Minnesota. In 1955 they purchased 18 acres near Stillwater, MN, and would live there until 1995.

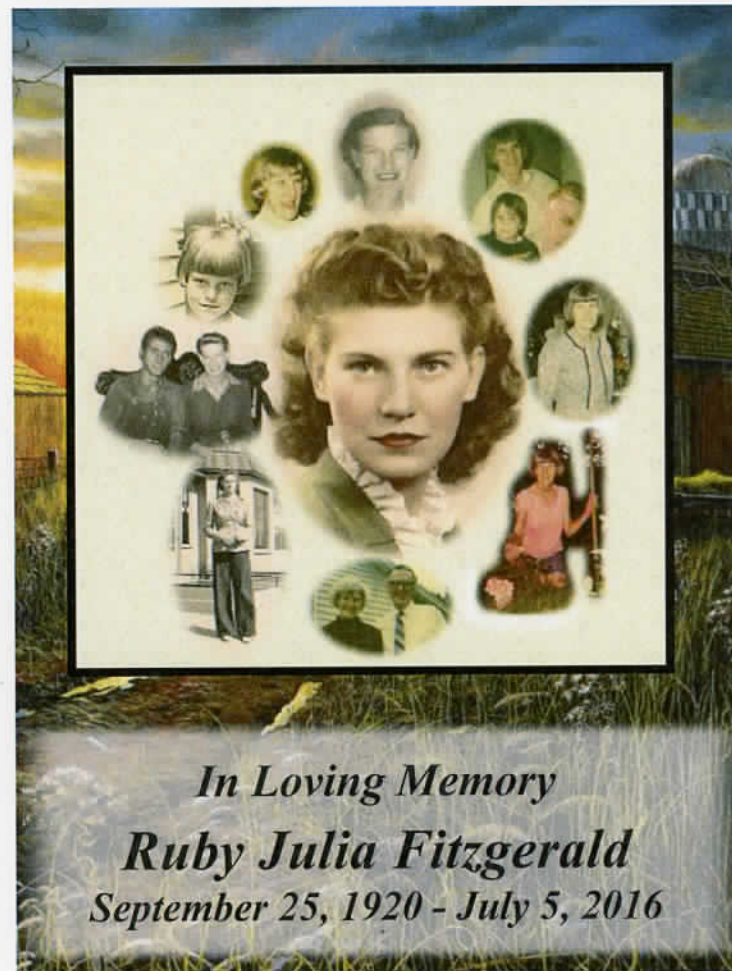
By 1962, Miles and Ruby had 8 children, and the demands of a large family kept her quite busy. Ruby enjoyed gardening, antiquing, music, and reading. Over the years she amassed a large antique collection, and went to many antique shows. She became quite knowledgeable and was sought out for her ability to appraise pieces.

Soon the children were graduating high school and heading out to make lives of their own. Miles and Ruby continued to host Sunday dinners and holidays, help with car repairs, provide assistance with moving, babysit, and generally do all the things that parents do for their children as they grow up. Ruby could be counted on to find the piece of furniture you were looking for. Sometimes she found the thing you didn't even know you needed until you finally had it.

There were some big celebrations of their wedding anniversaries. One was at the Piccadilly, one at the Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter, and one at the Lowell Inn. In 1996, Miles and Ruby celebrated their 50th anniversary with a big party and family reunion.

Soon after, Miles began to show the early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, and maintenance of the old farmhouse, well, and outbuildings was too much for them. They sold the farm and moved to an apartment in White Bear Lake, where Ruby would live until she was 94. When Miles' health had deteriorated to the point where he needed to go to Ramsey County Care Center, Ruby visited him twice a day, every day. In 3 or more years, you could count the number of days she missed on one hand.

Even at 90, Ruby was independent. Her 90th birthday was another big family celebration and reunion. She continued to live in her own apartment, bake Christmas cookies, make Sunday dinners, come to the weddings of her children and grandchildren, and to the births of her great grandchildren. Finally, at 94, Ruby moved to Ramsey County Care Center. Even though she was on hospice care, her health seemed to stabilize and after a few months of convalescence, she was able to go on outings and come to family holidays. We had her for another year and a half, but still the end seemed to come quickly. We learned on July 3rd that she was ill, and on July 5th her life ended.



In Loving Memory

Ruby Julia Fitzgerald
September 25, 1920 - July 5, 2016

Beloved mother of John (Marilyn Haug) Fitzgerald, Janice (Jim) Dobson, Daniel (Rosalie) Fitzgerald, Loren Fitzgerald, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Valerie Fitzgerald (Richard Germundsen) and David Fitzgerald. Grandmother of Danny, Emily, Ashley, Eric, Liberty and Holly. Great Grandmother of Brady, Ella Rose, Evey, Owen, Cadence, Isaac, Eli, Jonah, Liliana, Taylor and Emmett. Sister of Melvin (Lee) Berning.

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