

BIRTUS ROYCE DEAN

Born August 10, 1897 in Fulbright, Texas to Richard Hulen Dean and Lizzie Mae Reeves. Father - Richard Hulen Dean, born in Pearidge, Arkansas. Mother - Lizzie Mae Reeves, born in Melvin, Arkansas.

Richard had brothers named Albert and Calley. Albert was a rough rider and Calley was a preacher. Before 1890, Richard Hulen Dean moved from Arkansas to Gainsville, Texas. His sister named Boo lived there. The family moved around in Northeast Texas - Willis Point and Fulbright. Richard being a carpenter and farmer, finally moved to Merkel, Taylor County, Texas where family finally settled. Richard and Lizzie are buried there in the Dean family plot. Lizzie Mae, mother of Birtus, died March 19, 1907. This was a tragic loss for the family. The oldest boy, Elbert Marshall, was only ~~16~~ ^{1/2} years old. The next boy, Floyd Edward was 14 years old. Next, Lillie Mae was 12 years old and next, Birtus Royce was 9 years old and Madge was ~~5~~ 1/2 years old. Like all families in early frontier, the family had a hard time. Later, B.R.'s father, Richard Hulen Dean, remarried to Janie Griffin, which resulted in a half-sister being born into the family - A girl named Janie Hugh Dean.

Birtus Royce Dean went to South and North Merkel School, then to Abilene, then to Politechnic Business College in St. Louis, Missouri. He became a bookkeeper for Bowman Lumber Co. in Dallas where he met and married Daisy Weaver who was employed by Mobil Oil Co. as a comptometer machine operator. They both married late in life because each had taken care and dedicated their early life to help family members. They first lived with Daisy's mother, Amelia Spearman Weaver, in her home to take care of her. They then moved to Weatherford in 1947 and lived on Bankhead Highway, close to the Pythian Home. Daisy was employed at M&F Bank for several years, but was not well for the last few years and passed away in August 30, 1964.

Birtus Royce met Dollie Lindsay Sullivan Dean and they married June 8, 1965. B.R. being 68 and Dollie being 65. They thought if they had a few years together to do as they wanted, it would be great. They each sold their previous homes and bought a new home for themselves at 1441 Ball Street in Weatherford, Texas to start life again. Both being retired, they traveled and had many good times together. They went to Canada - Northeast Territories - and to the Eastern mountains, East of the Mississippi River several times. A big traveling day for them by car was 150-200 miles. They honeymooned in Hot Springs and Littlerock, Arkansas. From Weatherford, Texas, B. R. and Dollie would drive to Sherman, Texas to drink a cup of coffee and shop in the mall, spend the night and return home the next day. This was kind of a ritual for them. It reminded them of good and enjoyable times together.

Birtus Royce was very active in Masonic Lodge Phoenix #275 in Weatherford and also was in Shriners - both over 50 years. Birtus was active in First Baptist Church and Dollie in Couts Memorial Church. They attended both!

Birtus had double hernia surgery about 1983 and was several months regaining his strength back. On April 4, 1987, Birtus fell backwards and broke his hip. This surgery was very painful and took a long time to heal. Even though it bothered him, he was not a complainer and both he and Dollie continued an active life until the last few years.

On November 4, 1989, at 3:30 a.m., Birtus had a stroke, which left him incapacitated. He had to be hospitalized for 2 weeks, then back and forth from the rest home to Campbell Memorial Hospital where he passed away Sunday night at 10:30 p.m.

Birtus Royce Dean, for 92 years, was a very honest, christian and caring person. We know the Lord has a place for him in heaven.

The Sullivan Family
December 18, 1989