

**GERMAN UNION CEMETERY**  
**THREE-GENERATION GENEALOGY**

*Created By: Ronald R. Prinzing*

**UPDATED:** June 6, 2014

Surname: **FEE** Married Name: **HARKINS (WILLIAM)**  
Given Name: **BETTY** Interred Name: **HARKINS**  
Middle Name If Any: **LOU**  
Gender: **FEMALE**  
Date of Birth: **SEPTEMBER 27, 1923**  
Place of Birth: **LACROSS, WISCONSIN**  
Date of Death: **MAY 8, 2010**  
Place of Death: **ANGELS CARE CENTER – CANNON FALLS, MINNESOTA**  
Place of Burial: **GERMAN UNION CEMETERY – FOREST TOWNSHIP – RICE  
COUNTY - MINNESOTA** Plot Number: **9c**

Father: **CHARLES W. DEMANN**  
Gender: **MALE**  
Date of Birth: **JANUARY 14, 1859**  
Place of Birth: **RICE COUNTY – MINNESOTA**  
Date of Death: **FEBRUARY 28, 1935**  
Place of Death: **RICE COUNTY – FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA**  
Place of Burial: **GERMAN UNION CEMETERY – FOREST TOWNSHIP – RICE  
COUNTY - MINNESOTA** Plot Number: **9j**

Mother: **MARY REMICK** Married Name: **DEMANN (CHARLES W.)**  
Gender: **FEMALE** Interred Name: **DEMANN**  
Date of Birth: **APRIL 26, 1865**  
Place of Birth: **KENT, OHIO**  
Date of Death: **MARCH 3, 1953**  
Place of Death: **1022 CENTRAL AVENUE – RICE COUNTY – FARIBAULT,  
MINNESOTA**  
Place of Burial: **GERMAN UNION CEMETERY – FOREST TOWNSHIP – RICE  
COUNTY - MINNESOTA** Plot Number: **9k/l**

Marital Status: **MARRIED** Date: **OCTOBER 17, 1946** at **IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH – FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA**

Marriage: **WILLIAM HENRY HARKINS** born: **AUGUST 13, 1920** in **RICE  
COUNTY – FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA**

Children:

1. **WILLIAM SHERMAN HARKINS** born: **SEPTEMBER 2, 1947** in **RICE  
COUNTY - MINNESOTA**
2. **SHERMAYNE LOUISE HARKINS** born: **MAY 8, 1950** in **RICE  
COUNTY - MINNESOTA**
3. **MARY ELIZABETH HARKINS** born: **JULY 3, 1959** in **RICE COUNTY  
MINNESOTA**

**HARKINS, BETTY LOU NEE: FEE**

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**OBITUARY**

**Last Name: HARKINS**

**Maiden Name: FEE**

**First Name: BETTY**

**Middle Name or Initial: LOU**

**News Paper: FARIBAULT DAILY NEWS – FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA**

**Date: MAY 12, 2010**

Betty Lou Harkins, age 86, of Faribault, died Saturday, May 8, 2010 at the Angels Care Center in Cannon Falls, MN. Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Shieldsville. Interment will be held at the German-Union Cemetery in Millersburg. Memorial visitation will be held at the church on Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The family prefers that memorials be directed to the Angels Care Center in Cannon Falls, MN or St. Patrick Catholic Church. Arrangements are being completed by the Parker Kohl Funeral Home in Faribault. Betty Lou Fee, the daughter of Sherman and Elizabeth (Damann) Fee, was born on September 27, 1923 in La Crosse, WI. When Betty was a young girl her family moved to Faribault and purchased Roberds Lake Resort, where she started working in 1937. Betty attended Faribault High School and graduated with the class of 1941. After high school she attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics in 1945. She taught school in Campbell, NE from 1945-1946. On October 17, 1946 she was united in marriage to William H. Harkins at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Faribault. In 1949, Bill and Betty purchased the resort from Betty's parents and operated the family business, Roberds Lake Resort, until 1981 when it was purchased by their daughter. During this time Betty also worked at the Faribault Regional Center as a dietician from 1967 to 1972 and worked for the Faribault Vocational School teaching nursing and life skills. Betty and Bill were very active members of the Faribault Lions Club and because of this Betty was a Melvin Jones recipient. Betty and Bill traveled to Mexico three times to deliver donated glasses to those in need through the Lions Club. They enjoyed traveling and were able to travel to 49 states. Bill preceded her in death on Dec. 26, 2008. Betty was a member of many organizations including, the Ave Maria Study Club, University of Nebraska Alumni Association, Rosary Society of I.C., St. Patrick Catholic Church, Roberds Lake Club, AAUW and the Women's Club. She enjoyed gardening, music and camping. She is survived by her three children, William S. (Kathy) Harkins, of Wichita Falls, TX, Shermayne (Bob) Cross of Faribault, and Mary Harkins (Barry Venn) of Cannon Falls, MN; by eight grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren and other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

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## **BIOGRAPHY**

**Last Name: HARKINS**

**First Name: WILLIAM HENRY and BETTY LOU Nee: FEE**

**News Paper: FARIBAULT DAILY NEWS – FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA**

**BOOK - RICE COUNTY FAMILIES. PUB. 1981** William and Betty Harkins. William Henry Harkins was born August 13, 1920, in Faribault to Edgar W. and Mary (Fredette) Harkins. They were of French, Irish and English ancestry. Edgar worked as a wood-finisher. Other children in their family were Warren, Samuel, John, Orley and Rose Ada. Edgar died in 1931; Mary died in 1954. William attended I.C. and Faribault High School. He was a salesman for Coca Cola Co. when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1942. After training in the states he was sent to Egypt and assigned to the British 8th Army. They moved on the desert and he joined the Americans at Tunis, participated in the invasions of Sicily and Italy, and served also in France, Holland and Germany. He had spent 30 months overseas and toured 33 countries before his discharge after the war, in 1945. He returned to Faribault and his former job. In 1946 "Bill" was married to Betty Lou Fee, daughter of the Sherman Fee's. The next year they moved to Roberds Lake to join Mr. Fee in the operation of the resort. During these post-war years there were many fisherman but few owned their own boat. There were 50 boats at the resort and the fishermen would take a number and wait their turn to rent a boat. When Mr. Fee retired in 1955, Bill became the resort manager. The following years brought many changes in the resort operation. The harkins family built a new home in 1962. In 1969, 9.8 acres of land was developed into the Mill Stone Mobile Home Court with 31 spaces. The natural gas which became available from Northern States at this time was a first for the area. It was due to the efforts of Bill and the homeowners around the lake. 1971 saw the closing of the "old bathhouse" because of the prohibitive costs and the popularity of the new swimming pool in town. Upon the death of Mrs. Fee in 1974, Bill and Betty Harkins became sole owners of the resort. Several cottages were sold to be moved and a new shower house and laundry was built to accommodate the influx of campers. Eventually 25 campsites were developed with water, sewer and electricity hookups. Bill has been active in many ways as a citizen of Wells Township. He served as Constable and is Chairman of the town board; was an active member of the Roberds Lake School Board during the time that an addition with indoor plumbing was built (this was a very active school district and the last to close in 1971); was active in the Roberds Lake Club which has worked to maintain the quality of water and fishing in the lake, working in 1976 to place an aerator in the lake to increase the supply of oxygen; is treasurer of the Rural Fire Association and Secretary-Treasurer of the Rice County Township Officers Association. Three children were born to Bill and Betty. William Sherman, born September 2, 1947, graduated from the Duluth branch of the University of Minnesota in 1969 with a degree in Biology. He spent summers working at the resort and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1969. He graduated from Ft. Benning Officers Candidate School as a Second Lieutenant, was married to Kathryn Green at Bureleson, TX, in 1974, promoted to First Lieutenant and to Captain during his assignments to Mannheim and Stuttgart, Germany. The family returned to the U.S. in 1978 and Capt. Harkins became Associate Professor of Military Science at Poly Tech University at Russellville, AR. Shermayne Louise was born May 8, 1950, attended Stout State at Menomonie, WI, after having spent summers helping at the resort, including her work as a Life Guard. She was married to Bob A. Cross in 1969 and they lived in Mound View, MN, until returning to Roberds Lake community in 1974. Their children are Robert John, born December 1, 1971, Scott Michael, born

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December 28, 1972, and Timothy William, born May 4, 1976. Mary Elizabeth, the youngest Harkins child, was born July 3, 1959. A neighbor, Al Voegel, gave Mary her first pony, "Comet," in 1968 and 4 years later she started her own business, the "Bucking 'C' Stable." She has since invested in a farm east of Cannon Falls and will be graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1981 with a degree in micro-biology which she intends to pursue into graduate school. Betty Lou (Fee) Harkins was born September 27, 1923. She spent her early childhood in LaCrosse and Lincoln, NE. When the family moved to Roberds Lake she attended Faribault High School, graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Home Economics. She taught for one year before her marriage to "Bill." In 1965 she returned to teaching for one year at Faribault Vocation-Technical School until accepting a position as dietician at the Faribault State Hospital, working there off and on until 1977. She had been active in the Roberds Lake School Board and the Catholic Consolidated School Board in Faribault.

**HARKINS, WILLIAM HENRY AND BETTY LOU. NEE: FEE**

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**CERTIFICATE OF CREMATION**

**NAME** Betty Lou Harkins

**DATE OF DEATH** May 8, 2010

**CITY** Faribault, Minnesota

**PLACE OF DEATH** Cannon Falls, Minnesota

**AGE:** 86

**DATE OF CREMATION** May 10, 2010

**Dignity Cremation Service**

Parker Kohl Funeral Home  
Faribault, Minnesota

Cremation I.D. Number: 588

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**HARKINS, BETTY LOU. NEE: FEE**

**HARKINS, WILLIAM HENRY (BILL) – HUSBAND and WIFE**