



Thelma May Bowser

April 5, 1919 - February 8, 2013

Bowser was born in Santa Barbara at Cottage Hospital to Oliver and Gladys Tate on April 5, 1919. She and her brother Thurman grew up on the family ranch just outside Fillmore, California. She graduated from Fillmore High School. While visiting her Grandmother as a teenager in Santa Barbara she met her future husband, Gordon Bowser. They were married in 1940. She and Gordon started their lapidary business on Milpas Street and a few years later added jewelry. Later they moved their store, Bowser's Jewelry, to Loreto Plaza here in Santa Barbara. Gordon passed away in 1980. They were married 39 years. Later Thelma married James Tate. James passed away in 1999. She is survived by her two children Thomas G. Bowser and Rose Anne Bowser, (husband Wayne), and her grandchildren John Riffero III, (wife Yun Hui) and Rochelle Baiocchi, (husband Joel), her grandson Tom, (wife Linda) and her granddaughter Katrina, (husband Everett).

A very special thank you to all her caregivers, with a special thank you to Lucy and Marcela.

Thelma was a member of Reina del Mar Parlor, Chapter of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Daughters of the American Revolution, SB Genealogical Society, SB Assistance League and the Episcopal Church.

" Don't grieve for me, for now I am free following the way God laid for me."
Author unknown.

Tribute Wall

TB

“ *My condolence on the loss of your Mother. I didn't know her; I came upon her obituary tonight when I Googled the name Bowser in search of references to their rock shop, after finding a promotional cab marker in a box full of my stepdad's lapidary stuff. I think I remember going there once or twice with him and my mother. We lived in Ventura. (I took photos but it won't let me post them.)*

Toni Barnett - January 09, 2018 at 03:54 AM