

Obituaries

Ruth Hansen Zozula

Ruth Hansen Zozula, 79, died at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital on Sept. 25, 2002. Her family was by her side.

She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Oct. 2, 1922. While in her teens the Depression took away most all her family had, but Ruth kept on, graduating from high school and completing commercial art school. She designed windows for Saks Fifth Avenue and Macy's in Brooklyn. She loved to attend the Metropolitan Opera. During the war, while making ammunition, she met the love of her life, Paul Zozula. Five children came of that marriage.

Paul worked construction jobs in Alaska in the late '40s, leaving Ruth with two children in Soaplake, Wash. In 1951 the family moved to Fairbanks.

Ruth raised a large garden on Chena Hot Springs Road, selling produce to markets and to anyone who cared to "pick-your-own." It provided her children's school clothes and kept The Mad Russian supplied with building materials. Ruth worked for local farmers in the '50s, running their tractors, grading potatoes, or whatever. One farmer, Bert



ZOZULA

Stimple, even wrote a book in which she is featured.

Ruth was a wonderful wildlife artist; several of her paintings are in friend's and neighbor's homes. She was involved in developing the Seal of the state of Alaska.

During the '70s she worked as a cook at Bill's Drive-In and Sportland Arcade. In 1974 Ruth and her family moved to Anchor Point, where she became involved in garden clubs and community service projects, winning many awards and plaques for her service. In 2000 she returned to Fairbanks to live and be with her eldest daughter.

Ruth was particularly close to son-in-law Alvin. She loved his passion for hot rods, and bummed rides from his "rodder" buddies, in their wheels-smoking, rubber-burning, screaming machines!

Ruth had a passion for the Alaska way of life, and in particular the Native population. In the winters she made Native dolls.

Her family said, "Ruth will be sorely missed, but we are glad she's out of the pain she suffered in her later years. She bore it well."

She was preceded in death by her husband Paul in 1986, son Paul Jr. in 1987, and grandson Ernest N. Zozula in 1998.

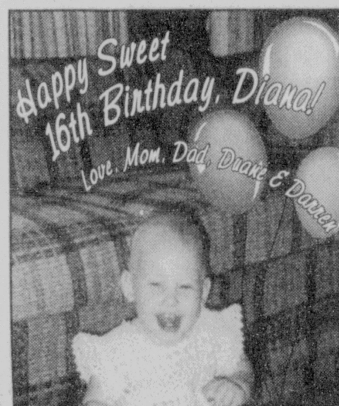
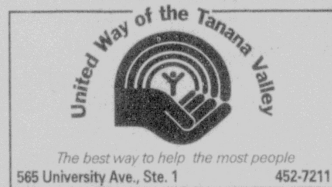
Ruth is survived by her son, William E. Zozula of Fairbanks; daughters and spouses, Sue and Alvin Whitney of Fairbanks, Paula Clayton of Juneau, and Dianna and Trapper Harrison of Kenai; and grandchildren Kim, Sky and Christina. Ruth had a special friend and companion in her later years, Alva Ditch.

Everyone is invited to a celebration of life potlatch at the Alaska Dog Musers Hall on Farmers Loop on Friday, Oct. 4, 6-8 p.m., with longtime friend Henry Gettinger officiating. Ruth loved a good party, so bring something good to eat and we'll swap stories.

Ruth's cremains will be scattered along a much-loved area on the Denali Highway next spring.

Condolences may be sent to Sue Whitney, P.O. Box 82865, Fairbanks, AK 99708.

Arrangements were by Fairbanks Funeral Home & Crematory.



Ruth Zozula

<https://www.ancientfaces.com/person/ruth-h-zozula-birth-1922-death-2002/13004613>

Ruth H Zozula had lived at Anchor River Beach, Road Mile 19t in Anchor Point, Alaska; PO Box 95, Anchor Point, Alaska; 3145 S Phenix Avenue and 32-Pow Naukati Island, Wasilla, Alaska. Although there aren't many records about Ruth, she is mentioned in a 1961 newspaper article in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner in Fairbanks, Alaska as being "quite an artist". And in the 1968 August 16th, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Mrs. Ruth Zozula was the champion in the Farm and home display section of the Alaska State Fair. While living in Fairbanks Alaska, she was also the leader of Girl Schout Troop 96. See an article about the Scouts' gift-making activities at [Girl Scouts send Anuktuvuk Toys](#).

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Birth October 2, 1922

Death September 25, 2002

Leslie McCartney – September 9, 2024