



Clara Nell Christian

January 13, 1935 - November 6, 2025

The Clara We All Knew and Loved

There are women who follow the status quo, who walk the traditional path others lay out for them, women who never dare to do anything outside of what's deemed "normal." And then there was Clara. Sophisticated, colorful, intelligent, eccentric, vibrant and truly independent, was our Aunt Clara.

Clara Nell Manse Christian migrated north to St. Louis, Missouri from Clinton, Kentucky with her parents and siblings, as a very young girl. The Manse family was huge, and settled in the close-knit community of Mecham Park, Kirkwood; all in one house at 434 Saratoga for several years. Love, food, fellowship and church were the order of most days for the Manse household, with a strict adherence to the rules. Despite there never being a dull moment with this regiment of activity, Clara was ready to take on more of life's adventures.

So, once out of high school, Clara left St. Louis and journeyed to Colorado, where she met the love of her life – an Airman named Morris Christian. Shortly thereafter, the two married and moved to Philadelphia, where they lived a long, comfortable and happy life. In Philadelphia, both Clara and Morris worked for the Federal government. Through the years, the two shared an enjoyable life together, each supporting the other's independence. Clara had a

close group of friends who would often gather at “The Eagle” in Strawbridge and Clothier Department Store. She had a passion for colorful clothes, music, and for the arts. Clara wasn’t really a shopper, but she appreciated “the finer things of life” – a few designer bags and art pieces were in her collection.

Though Clara and Morris never had children of their own, the Manse family’s nieces and nephews made up for it. Regularly they’d travel to St. Louis to visit, especially during the summer for the reunion. The family absolutely loved it when Morris and ‘Kates,’ as he affectionately called her, came to town. Lively conversation would always accompany them, with Morris providing much ‘shock and awe’ for Clara’s ‘saintly’ sisters. Clara also had a way with words, introducing various ideas and speaking as though she may have originated from a European country rather than from Clinton, Kentucky.

Clara’s life journey with her husband, Morris in Philadelphia came to an end when he passed away, bringing her back to St. Louis to live with her family. Things weren’t quite the same without Morris, but Clara’s regular presence was wonderful, especially for her niece and nephew, Jerelean and Arthur. The three had a close bond like siblings.

The memory of Aunt Clara will live on in the hearts and minds of her family. She was a bright light whose vibrance will never be extinguished. Preceding Clara in death are her husband, Morris Christian; parents, Mose Arthur Manse and Clara P. Barnett Manse; brother Floyd "Bubba" (Emma); sisters, Lucille, Mattie, Effie (Thomas), LaRuth, Cleassie (Russell), Juanita (James), Jerelean (Ernest), and Velma and Thelma. She is survived by her nephew, Arthur and five generations of nieces and nephews.

Cemetery Details

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Kirkwood

10301 Big Bend Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 965-8228
info@stlfuneral.com
<https://www.stlfuneral.com>

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 14. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

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