



## Ellen "Jo" Condra

July 18, 1916 - December 15, 2012

Ellen Louise (Jo) Condra, 96, died at her home in Springdale on Dec. 15, 2012. She was born July 18, 1916, in Wichita Falls, Texas, to James Hugh Carithers and Hattie Belle Connalley Carithers. She grew up in Bentonville and was one of two surviving members of the Bentonville High class of 1934.

For over 70 years, Jo Condra was a working woman in a man's world. Early in her first marriage her husband, James Lane Morriss, fell ill with tuberculosis and was hospitalized at the TB sanatorium in Booneville. She took over his job, a newspaper distribution route for the Fort Smith Southwest American, and for the next three years logged 100,000 miles a year in a Chevrolet coupe hauling newspapers and mail sacks to towns all over Benton and Washington Counties from Fayetteville to the Missouri line — traveling narrow highways and muddy rural roads.

Her husband died in 1941. She continued the newspaper job until shortly before she married Paul T. Condra of Fayetteville in January 1943 in Tucson, Ariz., where he was in Army Air Corps pilot training. She traveled with him to various posts in the U.S. until he went overseas as a B-24 bomber pilot, stationed in North Africa and Italy. He was wounded during a bombing raid in 1943 and returned to the U.S. to recover, then continued in the Air Corps until late 1945.

They returned to the area in 1946 and opened Stout-Condra auto parts store, with silent partner Bob Stout, on downtown Emma Avenue in Springdale. Paul Condra died in 1956 and she assumed management of the business. Although she had no management experience she decided to make a go of the store rather than sell it. "I had to do something because I had two boys to rear," she told Southern Automotive magazine in a 1975 interview. I decided to run the store myself and I don't mind admitting I was scared to death."

During the next three decades she built the business into a solid operation, developing a customer base among auto dealerships, service stations and corporate repair centers in Washington and Benton counties. She was a charter member and held various offices in the Automotive Wholesalers of Arkansas Association. In 1986 she sold the business to Crow-Burlingame of Little Rock and it is now the Bumper to Bumper store in Springdale. However, she didn't retire; instead, at the request of the ownership, she worked part-time in her former business until her health failed in September 2012. In addition to her parents and her two husbands, she was preceded in death by her only brother, James H. Carithers Jr., in World War II; one son, David Paul Condra; and one granddaughter, Laney Morriss.

Survivors include one son, James L. Morriss Jr. of Fayetteville; five grandchildren, James L. Morriss III (Trey) and wife Melody of Maumelle, Kristy Condra of Springdale, Shana Clark and husband Anthony of Fayetteville, Preston Condra and wife Kelly of Bedford, Texas, and Melissa Foxx of Alma; five great-grandchildren, Adam Morriss and wife Kim, Matthew Morriss, Dakota Downum, Hannah Morriss and Peyton Downum.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22, at Sisco Funeral Chapel in Springdale. Family will greet friends after the service. Arrangements by Sisco Funeral Chapel.

Thanks to caregivers Roseanne Leverich and Donna Lassiter and to the staff at Circle of Life Hospice.

Memorials may be made to Circle of Life Hospice, 901 Jones Road, Springdale 72762, or to a charity of choice

To sign the guestbook online please visit [www.siscofuneral.com](http://www.siscofuneral.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ellen "Jo" Condra*

January 21, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ *My condolences to the family and close friends do Jo Condra. For some unknown reason today I was thinking about Jo and wondered if she was still living. I decided to google her name and came across her obit. I regret not knowing at the time of her demise. I first met Jo as a 21 year old transplant from California in 1972. My husband Travis Vaughan had known her for many years. As a teenager he would come into her store and buy parts for the car he was rebuilding. Many times Travis would not have the money (he worked part time) so Jo would let him charge it. We were a young couple trying to make ends meet and Jo would let us charge what we needed too.*

*I recall Travis sending me to Stout Condra for a few items he needed. I meticulously wrote what I was told to pick up. Now remember I was from California, so I wrote brake plowers and bubs down just as it sounded to me. I told Jo what Travis needed and she of course understood Arkie and knew immediately he wanted brake pliers and some type of light bulbs. (I was still trying to wrap my head and ears around the Arkansas accent)*

*Travis has many wonderful memories of time spent with her drinking coffee and talking. I wish I would have known her better. I didn't spend as much time with Jo but absolutely enjoyed the talks and the history of her life that she would share.*

*We both had the utmost respect for this amazing woman.*

*Jo was a kind, passionate, generous lady working in a man's world. She of course will be and has been missed by many.*

*Travis and Barbara Vaughan*

Barbara Vaughan - January 21, 2017 at 02:05 PM

JO

“ I was honored to know and work with Mrs. Jo at Bumper-To-Bumper in Springdale, Arkansas. Jo was always cheerful and accepting of everyone. Even after I had to retire due to health problems, I often stopped by just to visit with Mrs. Jo for a few minutes. My wife and I will miss her.

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**John** - May 29, 2013 at 05:01 PM

BB

“ For many years, my Dad, Henry Baker, my brothers and I were customers at Stout Condra. Jo was always a pleasure to visit and do business with. She was a friend and a true professional.  
v/r Bill Baker

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**Bill Baker** - May 29, 2013 at 05:01 PM

EG

“ How does one share about such a wonderful person! Mama Jo, as I always referred to her, was a petite lady that packed enormous love, energy and kindness toward all who crossed her path. I worked for her many, many years ago in what was then Stout Condra Auto Parts. My second child, Megan, was born in 1980 while I was employed with Mama Jo.  
Her customers loved and respected her and continued to purchase the parts they needed from her. She loved her family and cherished each and every one of them. I visited her in the past year or so and ironically, she was leaving for work in just a few minutes! Mama Jo impacted my life in undescrivable ways and I will cherish her love, support and friendship to the end of my days.  
Heaven received an angel and here on earth we will experience the loss of one dynamic lady. I love you, Mama Jo. Elaine

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**Elaine Sample Gayle** - May 29, 2013 at 05:01 PM

KT

“ Jo has been a part of our lives for over 50 years. She was an inspiration and loved so much.

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**Kenneth & Juanita Todd** - May 29, 2013 at 05:01 PM

KH

“ The name "Jo Condra" brings back so many happy memories. My husband B.J. and I moved to Springdale about the same times as Jo and Paul. We had a new car & auto repair business across the street from Stout Condra, we became close friends as well as business associates. Springdale had no social life so we formed our own along with 6 to 10 other couples. The group would get together every Sat night for a meal, cards, dancing etc. Jo & I were the only two left out of that group and now only I remain. We have continued to get together for lunch when we could. After I moved to Rogers that became even more difficult but we tried to at least talk on the phone to catch-up. Jo was a dear friend for many, many years and I'll miss her.

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**Kandy Hainbach** - May 29, 2013 at 05:01 PM

HH

“ My Condolences to Mrs. "Jo's" Family.  
I got to know Mrs. Jo in 1975. She has been a very good friend from that time. I had the honor of working with her at Bumper to Bumper parts store for three years. Mrs. Jo was a great lady Wife, Mother, Grandmother, and Friend she will be missed by her Family and all that knew Mrs. Jo.

*Hershel Hardin and Family*

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**Hershel Hardin** - December 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ My name is Ellen Louise, and I was born July 18th 1960. My dad, Jerry C. Clark walked in to the Springdale Auto Supply Store and told Jo that he had a brand new baby girl, born that day, and her name was Ellen Louise. Jo, excitedly responded, "Today is my birthday too! And my name is Ellen Louise." Jo gave me a doll that I held precious all my life. I named him Snuffy. We loved Jo, and are so blessed to have known her.

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**Ellen Louise Clark** - December 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM