



Nancy Anne Barker

August 8, 1952 - January 5, 2025

REMEMBERING NANCY

Nature lover, Artist, Cowgirl, Activist, and self-described “Hiker-chick”, Nancy Barker, went on the ultimate solo adventure, after a short illness, on January 5, 2025, leaving this earthly realm and crossing into the great unknown. Always a fearless traveler she was equally, comfortable in the New Mexico backcountry, scouting on horseback for pottery thieves, as climbing the high points in the Black Hills of South Dakota, roaming the Bighorn region of Wyoming or hiking, off trail, in search of beautiful wildflowers to capture with her camera. Undeterred in recent years, by breaking an arm, on 2 different occasions, she continued hiking solo or with friends in her beloved Black Hills until a few weeks before her death.

Nancy was born on August 8, 1952 in Burlington Iowa to Margaret Leopold Barker and Everett Ellison Barker. Nancy always had a keen interest in all things western and knew she would not remain in Iowa but would head west! She grew up with all the 1950's westerns on television and in books and had a keen interest in Annie Oakley and admired Annie very much! Nancy had her first horse at age 8, Chico, an enormous Pinto and retired circus horse who knew every trick in the book. She gained much confidence on Chico. The family moved to Dallas Texas in 1964. There, Nancy became an accomplished rider and loved the weekend rodeos and playdays with her horse Penny. She won many trophies and ribbons. Barrels and Western Pleasure were her two favorite events. Throughout the years Nancy enjoyed owning, riding, and training many horses.

Nancy spent some of her early adult years visiting areas of the country in her Volkswagen van, eventually settling for a time in Colorado Springs, Co, Lead, SD, and Tucson AZ, before making her way to Santa Fe, NM on Rowe Mesa, where she spent 10 years. There, she partnered in accomplishing a lifelong goal in the building of an off-grid, adobe home, raising horses and riding through the wild country of the Pecos Wilderness.

Nancy made her way to the Black Hills in 1993 and it was here that she began working with the Crisis Team in Fall River County. From 1994 - 2001. She was an advocate for women of domestic violence and sexual assault. She provided emergency advocacy and transportation, along with support in court, for numerous women and children. She was a lifelong proponent for women's rights and healthcare.