

Bernice Crouch, 96

Aug. 17, 1914 - Feb. 5, 2011

IRWIN — Bernice Mathilda, daughter of Hugo and Anna (Waller) Grau, was born August 17, 1914 near Gray in Audubon County. She lived with her family on a farm near Gray until she was ten years old when the family moved to a farm near Manilla. She attended rural and Manilla schools.

December 22, 1933 Bernice was united in marriage with Ancel Crouch and in 1936 they moved to Hamilton City, CA. She and her husband worked in a fruit orchard and candled eggs. In 1943 during World War II, Bernice moved to Manilla and lived with her parents. She worked at Longnecker's Produce and traveled



with Ancel whenever possible. In 1946 Bernice returned to California to join Ancel after his honorable discharge and to work for Poultry Processors of California. They returned to Iowa in 1952 and in 1956 moved to a farm 3/4 mile east of Irwin. Bernice enjoyed being a homemaker and caring for their yard. In 1976 they retired and built a home in Irwin. Ancel died in 1980. Eventually Bernice sold their home and moved to an apartment in Irwin. Bernice was a member of the United Methodist Church and various church circles where she was very active. She held various offices, including President, while a life member with the Austin Earl Hiatt American Legion Post #614 Auxiliary. She transferred her membership to the American Legion Auxiliary in Manning in recent years. Bernice was also a member of the VFW Post #3517 Auxiliary in Manning. Bernice volunteered at church and community activities and took great pleasure when traveling on bus tours. She made many quilts and gave them to her family. Bernice thoroughly enjoyed the many card clubs she belonged to over the years. When she could no longer live alone, Bernice moved to the Manilla Manor Nursing Home in June of 2007. Bernice died there on Saturday, February 5, 2011, at the age of 96 years, 5 months and 19 days.

Preceding Bernice in death are her parents; husband; two brothers Walter Grau and wife Helen and Hugo Grau and wife Janola; sister Amanda and husband Walt Martens and brother-in-law Frances Mitzel. Bernice is survived by her sister Edna Mitzel of Manilla; brother Ralph Grau and wife Theresa of Manteca, CA; brother-in-law Virgil Crouch of Irwin; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Visitation was held from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Ohde Funeral Home on Monday, February 7, 2011. Funeral services were held Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Irwin with Reverend Leila Blackburn and Reverend Ted Sieck officiating. Music was "What A Friend

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We Have In Jesus", "Blessed Assurance", "In The Garden", and "America" with Ruth Ann Barry, accompanist. Casket bearers were Garland Barrett, Henry Olson, Norm Campbell, Eugene Juhl, Rod Shannon, Ken Pleake, Larry Hagedorn, and Bill Ahrenholtz. Interment was in the Oak Hill Cemetery at Irwin.

Home

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