

Vera Kuster, 87

June 29, 1919 - Dec. 5, 2006

PERSIA — Vera May Kuster was born June 29, 1919, to Joseph and Gladys (Evans) Chambers in Washington Township near Persia. She attended school in Persia, graduating with the class of 1937. She received her training to be a teacher and began her teaching career in country school.

Vera married Edwin Kuster Aug. 2, 1941. To this union four children were born, Garyld, Cheryl, LaRae, and a still-born infant son. Vera shared her talent of teaching with many students, later their children, and even a few of their grandchildren in the Persia School District and then in the Tri-Center School District. Vera continued teaching until a retinal hemorrhage forced her into early retirement. Vera, Edwin, and LaRae spent the winter months in Southern Texas. While living in Texas, she joined the Texas Rhythm Ramblers as a piano player. After her husband died in 1993, Vera and LaRae spent a few more winters in Texas before selling their winter home down there and remaining in their Persia home year round. Most recently she joined the Four County Players and spent many afternoons at area nursing homes, retirement centers, and different events in Southwestern Iowa. She was with the band setting up schedules and organizing dates right up until she developed pneumonia in the first part of November. Complications of that developed into heart and kidney failure. Vera died Dec. 5, 2006, at Creighton University Hospital in Omaha, NE, at age 87 years, five months and six days.

In addition to her parents, Vera was preceded in death by her husband, Edwin; an infant son; and her son, Garyld. Vera is survived by her daughters, Cheryl Olsberg of Omaha, NE and LaRae Kuster of Persia; two granddaughters; four great-grandchildren; and other family.

A Celebration of Life was held Dec. 9, 2006, with Rev. Orris Drake officiating at the Persia Methodist Church. Honorary casket bearers were the Four County Players and wives, Veral and Dorothy Smith, Craig and Terri Daringer, Ken and Norma Perrin, Alden and Ella Stamp, and all her students and friends. Casket bearers were Dale Jensen, Tom Nelson, Brent Daringer, Greg Roecker, Robert Stuhr, and Chad Plambeck. Burial was at the Valley View Cemetery in Persia. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

