

Gertrude Mork, 91

June 5, 1912 - Oct. 24, 2003

IRWIN — Gertrude Viola Schroeder, the daughter of Charles and Margaretha Louise Schulz Schroeder, was born June 5, 1912, on a farm in Iowa Township, Crawford County. She joined a sister, Wilhelmina, and a brother, Henry. When the flu epidemic struck, her mother was one of the many people who contracted the disease. Her health afterwards was so that they decided to leave the farm and bought a house in Aspinwall, so after attending country school they entered Aspinwall School and Minnie at Manning High School. In Aspinwall, the family started a dairy and the children attended to the milking and the work that goes with a dairy. Gertie delivered milk to the town people morning and evening through the years until she married.



March 1, 1929, Gertie married Walter Barten. They lived in Manning, until that fall when they moved to Audubon County on the Barten family farm, where the three children, Verta Mae, Arlo and Charleen, along the farm worker, kept them busy. In 1940, they moved to the Irwin community to the Violet Heck farm where they lived four years. In 1944, they moved to the Schroeder farm in Iowa Township, where Gertie and her brother and sister were born. Before the year was over, Walter became ill and a farm sale was held and the family moved back to Irwin, where they took over the Reynold's Cafe and Drug Store. In a few months, Walter became worse and surgery was necessary. The business was sold and Walter entered the hospital in Omaha and for the six weeks that he was there, Gertie stayed with him. After his hospital stay, they moved to an apartment in Irwin. In February of 1947, Walter died. In May, when school let out, Gertie and Charleen moved to the Roy Mork farm where she kept house.

In March of 1949, Roy and Gertie married and when the children were through with school and away from home, Roy and Gertie built a new house in Irwin, where they both were employed by the school system. In 1962, Roy and Gertie moved to Marysville, WA, where they both worked for the school system. In 1966, Roy had a heart attack. When he was able, he wanted to move back to Irwin. Gertie was employed with the Irwin school system, and during the summers she and Roy traveled. In 1970, Gertie and Roy decided to spend the winter months in Texas. In 1971, only after being in Texas for a few weeks, Roy had a heart attack and died. Gertie sold her home in June 1973 but continued to spend the winters in Texas until 1975. She was confirmed into the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church at 15 years of age. Later she and Walter joined the Trinity Lutheran Church in Lincoln Township, Audubon County. When St. Paul's Lutheran Church was moved to Irwin, she joined the church along with her three children and stepdaughter. Marland joined the Denison Lutheran Church. When Roy and Gertie moved to Irwin, Roy also joined St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Gertie was active with the Keenagers Center. She died Oct. 24, 2003, at the Manilla Manor at age 91 years, four months and 19 days.

In addition to her parents and her husbands, Walter and Roy, Gertie was preceded in death by her brother, Henry; her sons-in-law, Eugene Von Tersch and Gerald Axlund; and a grandson, Steve Mork. Survivors include her children, Verta Mae Von Tersch of Denison; Arlo Barton (Ruth) of Des Moines; Charleen (Kenny) Knudson of Irwin; Marland Mork (Jeannie) of Denison; and Dwanna Axlund of Arizona; 18 grandchildren; 35 great grandchildren; seven great great grandchildren; her sister, Wilhelmina Fuss of Marceline, MO; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 28, 2003, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin, with Rev. Vic Johnson officiating. Honorary casket bearers were Larry Von Tersch, Dale Von Tersch, Dan Mork and Paul Von Tersch. Casket bearers were Kerry Barton, Randy Knudson, Gene Von Tersch, John Von Tersch, Tom Mork and Mark Axlund. Burial was held in Oak Hill Cemetery in Irwin. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.