

# Bessie Hopper

7-20-1967

Funeral services for Bessie Hopper, 103 years, nine months and 22 days, were held Tuesday, July 23, at 11 a.m., at the First Christian Church in Wheatland, with Dan Barcus, minister, officiating. Interment followed in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Bessie left Wheatland and arrived at her long-awaited heavenly home on Saturday, July 20 at Platte County Memorial Hospital.

She was born Sept. 28, 1887 at Saint Michael, Neb., the daughter of Frank and Barbara (Vaverina) Bachkora. She was the fifth of 12 children. Her parents came to the United States from Bohemia in 1877. She was a first generation American.

In 1909, she married Earl Hopper. They lived many years in the Sandhills region of Nebraska - four of those years in a sod house. In the mid-1920s, they moved to Wyoming and spent most of those years in or near Wheatland.

At the start of World War II, they moved to California to be near their married children, who were engaged in war work.

Later, Bessie moved to Denver, Colo., and lived at the home of her daughter, Alice. Then she and her other daughter, Marie, shared a home in Denver, and in 1973, they moved to Wheatland where she resided until her death.

Having loved God since early childhood, Bessie became a Christian in 1924, becoming a member of the First Christian Church in Wheatland. She was also a member of the Rebekah Lodge.

Bessie prayed one son safely through World War II, and lived to offer up prayers for one grandson and two great-grandsons serving their country in wartime.

Bessie's love of God, love of family, perseverance, friendliness and appreciation in the value of honest work are a few of her traits she sought to instill in her family. Her family misses her -- but does not mourn her passing. Her desire is for a family reunion in heaven.

She is survived by those to rejoice in her victory, her children, Erma Marie Johnson of the home in Wheatland, Alice Bookout and husband Cecil of Wheatland, Harold and wife Lore Hopper of Corona del Mar, Calif., and Floyd and wife Evelyn Hopper of Scottsbluff. Also surviving are six grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, 17 great-great-grandchildren and an extended family of 17 honorary grandchildren, all dear to her. A sister, Ella Mustoe of Lancaster, Calif., countless nieces and nephews, and untold numbers of friends also remain. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Earl, in 1957, seven brothers, three sisters and one daughter, Mable Hopper.

Serving as pallbearers were Bob Bauer, Betty Lockman, Steve Cross, Al Keys, Don Gudahl, and Clint Loyd. Serving as honorary pallbearers were Albert Goertz, Hugh Jenkins, Dale Tatman and Albert Lawrence.

A memorial to the Platte Valley Bible College in Scottsbluff, Neb., would be equally appreciated by the family.

The Platte Funeral Chapel was in charge of arrangements.