

Minnie L. Martens

August 24, 1911 - September 17, 2010

Record Times
Sept. 22, 2010

A memorial service for Wheatland, Wyoming resident, Minnie L. Martens, 99, will be conducted at 10:30 A.M., Friday, October 8, 2010, at the Wheatland Bible Church in Wheatland with Pastor Denzil G. Mauk and John Thalken officiating.

She passed away on Friday, September 17, 2010, at the Platte County Memorial Hospital in Wheatland.

She was born August 24, 1911, to James Tanner and Maggie (Johnson) Needham, in Cass County, North Dakota. The wondrous event took place on Great-Grandpa Needham's farm in the farmhouse. She was the third of four children, Beulah Needham Dodge was three years older, Lloyd Needham was two years older, and Donald is thirteen years younger.

A couple of years after she was born, the family moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota. At this time her father worked as a barber. In 1916, the family moved to Parshall, North Dakota. They lived in a tent until the barn was built; then in the barn until the house was finished. The farm is still in the Needham family today.

In grade school, she attended rural school in which she walked three miles to and from school. Her Junior High years were spent at a consolidated school six miles away. There was a horse drawn bus that took the kids to and from school. They used to cover up with a bear rug to stay warm. She attended High School in Parshall and after graduation she entered nurse's training in Kenmare, North Dakota.

In the fall of 1930, Minnie traveled to Wyoming to visit her sister, Beulah, who was newly married in the spring of that year. On September 9, Minnie was singing at a community dance at the North Albany Hall when she caught the eye of Verne Martens that particular evening. They were married on December 30, 1930. They made their home on the Martens family ranch in the Sybille Canyon. They were blessed with two lovely daughters. Norma was born in 1937 and Valerie joined the family in 1940. The girls attended country school right there at the ranch. Then from 1951 to 1958 Minnie and the girls moved to town in the winters for high school. The family lost Verne in January of

1968. In 1972 Minnie moved to Wheatland permanently, where she resided until the time of her death. She was fortunate to live in her own home until 2003, when she moved to Country Club Living. In June of this year she moved in with Dick and Norma and was blessed to spend the last few months of her life in Norma's care.

Minnie was quite a busy lady throughout her life. She was a member of the Laramie Dell, Past Matron in Eastern Star, and Daughters of the Nile. She loved to play all kinds of games; card games of all types were her favorite. She was active in the pinochle marathon in town until the last couple of years. She loved her grandchildren. There was seldom a time when Minnie was not at an event her grandkids were involved in. She did not become a great-grandmother until later in her life, but was honored to finally fill this roll. She truly cherished all the grandchildren. When she was not following the kids around to activities, she occupied her time by traveling with friends, doing crossword puzzles, reading her morning paper, working in her beautiful yard, and going to bible study and church. There will forever be a void in the lives of all she touched, especially her family.

She is survived by her daughters, Norma (Richard) Marker and Valerie (Tom) Christinck both of Wheatland; seven grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren: Kim Marker of Gilbert, Arizona; Lisa (Trevor) Mantle, Taylor and Hunter of Gilbert; Mark (Susan) Marker, Hannah and Jacob of Littleton, Colorado; Doug (Krisha) Marker, Colten, Levi, Winston, and Kasen of Shelley, Idaho; Jesse Marker, Bailey and Logan of Casper, Wyoming; Mike (Tina) Christinck of Wheatland; and Toni (Billy) Olson, Tyus, Trevor, and Colby of Mud Butte, South Dakota; and a brother, Donald (Florence) Needham of Miles City, Montana.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Verne; her sister; and oldest brother.

Memorials to the Shriners Hospital for Children, Virginia St. at Fairfax, Salt Lake City, Utah 84103 would be appreciated by the family.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gorman Funeral Homes - Platte Chapel of Wheatland.

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