

# Augusta Maria Louisa Swan

WHEATLAND — Funeral services for Augusta Maria Louisa Swan, 105, will be held on Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Wheatland with the Rev. Delbert Dick of the American Missionary Fellowship and the Rev. Linda Patzke of the United Methodist Church officiating. Interment will be in the Wheatland Cemetery.

Mrs. Swan died April 24, 1997, at the Platte County Memorial Nursing Home in Wheatland.

She was born June 10, 1891, in Madison, Minn., the daughter of Fritz and Minnie (Abramoski) Drube. Her early schooling was in an "English" school, where she learned to speak English, as German was the language spoken at home.

On Oct. 2, 1911, she arrived in Wheatland along with some of her family. She found work in Denver, housekeeping for a family with two small boys. After one week, she decided it was not the life for a "country girl."

That winter, she did odd jobs in the Wheatland area. In the spring, she found employment on the Muleshoe Ranch and then at the Two-Bar Ranch.

During that time, she met her future husband, Oscar Swan, at a dance. When they were planning to get married, they filed for a homestead claim.

Each one filed so they were able to obtain one section of land. That winter, they worked at odd jobs to earn enough money to build their "shacks."

They were married March 5, 1916, and resided on the homestead land for 24 years. During the early part of that time, they sold cream and

butter for 13 cents per pound and eggs for seven cents per dozen.

A source of additional income was for rooming and boarding the school "marm" at \$15 per month.

In 1940, they moved to another farm in the Antelope Gap area and lived there until 1947, when Mr. Swan died.

She then moved into town, where she was very active in the Methodist Church, sang in the choir and taught an adult Sunday School class.

As a member of the VFW Auxiliary, she was the chaplain for many years. She also belonged to the Christmas Club and made many craft items. Another of her hobbies was gardening and she won many prizes for her zinnias.

Despite her generally good health, she was unable to live alone and entered the Platte County Memorial Nursing Home in January 1986.

Survivors include three children, Walter Swan of Wheatland, Alice Benedict of Pine Bluffs and Dean Swan of Pullman, Wash.; four grandchildren, six step-grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Oscar on March 15, 1947; six sisters, Emma, Minnie, Lydia, Carrie, Ida and Rosa; three brothers, George, Ernest and Fritz; a grandson and two great-grandchildren.

Memorials to the Platte County Memorial Nursing Home, 201 14th St., Wheatland 82201, would be appreciated by the family.

Family and friends may call at the funeral chapel on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Platte Funeral Chapel of Wheatland is in charge of the arrangements.