

THALKEN, LYDIA MARIE DOLLEFELD

June 2, 1908-October 21, 2002

Funeral services for Lydia Marie (Dollefeld) Thalken, 94, were held Oct. 28., at the Wheatland Bible Church in Wheatland. With Pastor Denzil G. Mauk and Pastor Gordon Swedberg officiating. Interment was in the Wheatland Cemetery. Mrs. Thalken died Monday, Oct. 21, at the Wyoming Medical Center in Casper, Wyoming.

Lydia Marie was born June 2, 1908 in Deseau, Texas (now a part of Austin), the daughter of the Reverend August and Anna Elizabeth (Joeckel) Dollefeld.

Since her father was a minister of the German Evangelical Church, the family moved from time to time. Besides Texas, they resided in Pana, Ill.; Carlyle, Illinois; and Booneville, Ind., before moving to Laramie in Jan. 1927. In May of 1927, she graduated from Laramie High School. She was in nurses' training at Ivinson Memorial Hospital in Laramie when she met John Bernard Thalken. They were married October 21, 1928, in Fort Collins.

They lived in Laramie until 1942 when Mr. Thalken began employment with the Bureau of Reclamation until his retirement and over the years, they lived at Guernsey Dam, Kortess Dam, Alcova Dam-all in Wyoming; Anderson Ranch Dam at Mountain Home, Idaho; Glen Canyon Dam at Page, Arizona; and Blue Mesa Dam at Gunnison, Colorado. At retirement, they moved back home to Wyoming and resided in Casper, Yoder and Wheatland. After her husband's death, Mrs. Thalken lived in their home in Wheatland until her health deteriorated and she resided at Country Club Living in Wheatland, and the last nine months at Park Place in Casper. A big event in Mr. and Mrs. Thalken's lives was when they celebrated their 70th anniversary in 1998. Mrs. Thalken was a postmistress at Kortess Dam for a few years, and she enjoyed playing the organ, her church and her family. In her younger days, she was a Sunday school teacher and youth group leader.

She is survived by two children and their spouses, John Eugene Thalken and wife Phyllis, of Wheatland and Barbara Ann Eastridge and husband Paul, of Casper; five grandchildren, Dr. John P. Thalken and Kathy Watson, both of Wheatland, Gloria Forini of Cave Junction, Oregon, Gayle Eastridge-Revere and Carol Janski, both of Casper; twenty four great grandchildren and ten great-great grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents; and infant daughter, Patsy Ann Thalken; her husband, John Bernard on February 14, 1999; and three brothers, Henry, Tex and Eugene Dollefeld.

Serving as pallbearers were her great grandsons, Tom Watson, Johnny Janski, Jordan Janski, Aaron Jude, Dylan Olafson, and Jake Jones. Honorary pallbearers were all her many friends.