

April 6, 2007

Myrle Breck

- Funeral services for Myrle Breck, 91, Groton, will be held Saturday, April 7, 11 am, at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, with Pastor Bill Duncan officiating. Burial will follow at the Groton Union Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8 pm Friday, and one hour before services Saturday morning.
- Myrle died April 3, 2007 at Mother Joseph Manor, Aberdeen
- Myrle Adeline Newman was born November 6, 1915, to Earl and Anna (Rose) Newman in a sod house on the Newman homestead near Ferney, SD. She attended Plainview



Academy in Redfield, SD, and eventually graduated from Lead High School, Lead, SD.

- Myrle married Albert Breck December 24, 1934, and their three daughters were born by the end of the decade.
- Myrle was a pioneering spirit in the Women's Movement. During World War II, she worked at a radio repair shop while Albert served in the Coast Guard. Later she attended Black Hills Teachers College (now BHSU) in Spearfish, SD where, as a single mother and older woman with three children and no high school diploma, she needed special permission from the college president to enroll. She obtained her teaching certificate and taught in a one-room school near Bison, SD. She then attended BHTC again to complete her high school diploma and receive certification to teach in city schools. She taught school in Lead, spending summers at BHTC to earn her BA in Education. She then earned a Masters Degree in School Administration from Colorado State University, Greeley, CO, so that she could better support her daughters as they grew.
- After her daughters graduated from high school, Myrle became an Educational Consultant for Houghton-Mifflin Publishing Company, Boston. She obtained a second Masters Degree in Psychological Counseling from the University of Chicago. She taught in places as far-flung as Washington, DC, Walnut Grove, CA, and River Falls, WI. Returning to Groton to buy her aunt's old house, she became the state's first female superintendent of schools, in the Andover Public School system.
- In the late 1960's, Myrle changed careers to become a Contracting Officer for the federal government. Her twenty years of Government employment were spent with Army Aviation in St. Louis, and the Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha. Myrle was gainfully employed until she retired at age 72.
- Myrle was a member of the Presbyterian Church, Lead, SD. She belonged to Kappa Delta Phi and Kappa Pi, honorary fraternities in Education and Fine Arts. She was also a member of the Business and Professional Women's Club, Toastmasters, National Contract Management Association; National Association of Women in Construction; the Air Force Association; and the Federal Women's Council.
- Myrle's hobbies included painting and drawing, playing the violin, singing in church choirs, and acting in community theaters.
- Myrle is survived by three daughters, Evelyn Breck and Betty Breck of Groton, and Abbie Place (Ron) Kelly of Syracuse, NY; two grandchildren, Toby (Lori) Place of Brockport, NY, and Kristina (Evan) Mackey of Lancaster, CA; three great-grandchildren, Alexander, Cody Joseph and Samantha Place of Brockport, NY; one sister, Lois (J.D.) Plumb, of Longview, WA; and several nieces and nephews.
- She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Wayne Newman.
- Myrle will be remembered for her strength of spirit and her determination to succeed in what was then primarily a "man's world".

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Casketbearers were Dwayne "Sonny" Newman, Bill Sundermeyer, Daryl Sundermeyer, Carroll Clocksene and Harlan "Butch" Radke.

