

Ramona Lorna Gerdes Brende

The funeral for Ramona Lorna Gerdes Brende, of Missoula, Montana, formerly of Hecla, South Dakota was held Saturday, Oct. 5, 2002 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hecla with the Rev. Alvin Magnuson officiating. Burial was at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Ramona Lorna Lunzman, daughter of Emil and Hilda (Neubauer) Lunzman was born on December 4, 1928 in Columbia. She grew up and attended school in the Columbia and Hecla areas. Ramona was united in marriage to Herman Gerdes on December 12, 1948. To this union four sons were born Carson, Harold, Harlen, and Gale. Ramona and Herman farmed near Hecla until their retirement in 1974. Herman died in 1980. Ramona later met and married Alvin Brende in 1983. The couple lived in Nevada and Arizona until Al's death in 1998. Ramona then moved to Poison, Montana to be near her son, Harlen and because she enjoyed the area.

Ramona died on Monday, Sept. 30, 2002 at St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula, Montana. She was 73 years old.

She is survived by four sons, Carson (Susan) and Harold (Susan), Hecla, SD, Harlen, Ronan, MT and Gale (Cindy), San Diego, CA; one sister, LaVonne Scott, Renton, WA; nine grandchildren, Shawna Beaver, Traci Malpert, Jessica Rud, Sarah Gerdes, Rance Gerdes, Joni Clark, Heather Gerdes, Cassie Sumption and Travis Gerdes and seven great-grandchildren. Ramona was preceded in death by two husbands, her parents and one sister, Ardis Foster.

Pallbearers for the funeral were all of Ramona's grandchildren. Janet Elsen was the organist and Rose Moerke, Janet Elsen, Janell Telin and Sandy Dinger sung as a quartet for the service.

Dahlstrom Funeral Home in Oakes, North Dakota is in charge of the funeral arrangements.