

December 16, 2002

Emily Erdmann

- The funeral for Emily Erdmann was held Saturday, Dec. 14 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton, with the Rev. Craig Grams officiating. Burial followed in Union Cemetery, Groton, under the direction of Paetnick-Garness Funeral Chapel.
- Emily Caroline Olson Erdmann was born in Marshall County, S.D., on her parents homestead on March 3, 1905. She was the third of nine children born to Cora and Halvor Olson. She was a pioneer prairie child and if anyone asked she was proud to tell you about it. She lived all of her 97 years in South Dakota except the last three when she lived at her daughter's home in Baltimore.



- In 1914, the Soo Railroad built a rail west from Minneapolis and established town along the line. Her father sold them the land for the town site and Lake City was built a half-mile from their home. She graduated from high school at Huron College Academy and received a teaching certificate from Northern State college. She taught in rural schools and in Lake City, Miller and Stratford. While Emily was teaching in Stratford she met Alfred Erdmann. They were married on June 15, 1939. In 1939 women could no longer teach after they were married so she retired from teaching. They started a family and Emily cared for Alfred's aging parents. In 1950, the family moved to Groton and established Erdmann Electric. They also operated a Laundromat. After Alfred's sudden death in 1970, Emily sold the store and moved into an apartment.
- In her early years Emily was involved in Girl Scouts and developed her love of nature through directing Girl Scout camps. As her daughters, Carol and Elsa, were growing up she was active as a 4-H Leader, Sunday School teacher and State PTA Secretary. She was an active member in LWML and 20th Century Club.
- In her early years, she was involved in Girl Scouts and directed Girl Scout camps. She was a 4-H leader, Sunday school teacher and state PTA secretary. She was an active member of Lutheran Women's Missionary League and 20th Century Club. For 15 years conducted a weekly Bible study and story time at the Colonial Manor Nursing Home.
- She loved poetry, gardening, and crocheting. She also created a family history book. She was known for her generosity.
- Survivors include two daughters, Carol (Michael) Dausch and Elsa (Douglas) Felten; one sister, Nellie Godwin; one brother, Leonard Olson; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Emily Erdmann, 97

Emily Erdmann, Baltimore, Md. and formerly Groton, died Saturday, Dec. 7, 2002.

Her funeral was Saturday, Dec. 14, 2002 at St. John's Lutheran Church, with the Rev. Craig Grams officiating. Burial was in Union Cemetery, Groton, with Paetznick Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, in charge of arrangements.

Emily Caroline Olson was born March 3, 1905, the third of nine children to Cora and Halvor Olson, on their homestead in Marshall County, SD. She lived all of her 97 years in South Dakota, except the last three, when she lived in her daughter's home in Baltimore, Md.

The Soo Railroad built a rail west from Minneapolis in 1914 and established towns along the line. Her father sold the land for the town sites. Lake City was built a half mile from their home. Emily graduated from high school at Huron College Academy and received her teaching certificate from Northern State College. She taught in rural schools in Lake City, Miller and Stratford.

While teaching in Stratford, she met Alfred Erdmann. They were married June 15, 1939, at which time she retired from teaching. They started a family and she cared for his aging parents. The family moved to Groton in 1950 and established Erdmann Electric. They also operated the laundromat. After Alfred's sudden death in 1970, Emily sold the store and moved into an apartment.

Emily was involved in Girl Scouts and developed her love of nature through directing Girl Scout camps. As her daughters grew up, she was active as a 4-H leader, Sunday school teacher, and State PTA secretary. She was an active member in LWML and 20th Century Club. She had a deep love for poetry and committed many children's stories to memory, with which she entertained her grandchildren. She conducted weekly Bible study and story time at Colonial Manor nursing home for 15 years. She loved gardening. She crocheted to keep her hands nimble and made baby blankets for all of her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She created the Olson Family history book, along with many recollections of life on the prairie to the present time. She was always ready to help the less fortunate.

She is survived by two daughters, Carol (Michael) Dausch and Elsa (Douglas) Felten; five grandchildren, Gretchen (Bob) Michaels, Michael (Lisa) Dausch, Laura (Bob) Reiners, Daniel Felten; Brett (Jennifer) Felten; six great grandchildren, Abby Michaels, Charlie and Caroline Dausch, Robby, Katie and Sean Reiners; one sister, Nellie Godwin, and one brother, Leonard Olson.

Memorials may be sent to St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton, or to Youth Encounter, 2500 NE 39th Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55421.

