

December 22, 2003

Wilma Anna Karlen



- The funeral service for Wilma Anna Karlen, 88, of Aberdeen, will be 1:30 pm Monday, December 22, 2003 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, with Pastor Roger Noer officiating. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Mrs. Karlen died Friday December 19, at Avera Mother Joseph Manor.

- Spitzer Funeral Home, 320 6th Ave. SE, is in charge of arrangements.

- Wilma Anna Koch was born May 12, 1915 at the Koch farm West of Hecla, SD, to William "Billy" & Anna Koch. She grew up with her four sisters and brother on the farm. Wilma

attended school in Hecla, graduating from Hecla High School. She enjoyed working outside with her father, which is where she met Gilbert Karlen.

- Wilma married Gilbert Karlen on February 26, 1934 on the Koch farm. After leaving the farm, Gilbert had a business in Hecla called Armour & Karlen. Wilma worked at Herther's Department Store. In 1955, they moved to Aberdeen, where Wilma worked at Sears until retiring in 1979. They moved to Bath after her retirement. Gilbert died on November 18, 1980. Wilma moved back to Aberdeen in 1981. Wilma went to live at Avera Mother Joseph Manor in January of 2001 and resided there until the time of her death.

- Wilma was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and was active in the past in circle. She enjoyed playing cards and crocheting. Spending time with her family brought Wilma the greatest joy.

- Grateful for having shared her life are her daughter: Annette (Herb) Schroeder, of Aberdeen; her son Sidney (Ann) Karlen, Hillsboro, OR; and her seven granddaughters: Sheila Smith of Aberdeen, Karlene (Bob) Serfoss, Jamestown, ND, Valerie (Jay) Cadwell, Las Vegas, NV, Lisa (Daryl) Streckfuss, Mina, SD; Tira Campbell, Hillsboro, OR, Tammy (Ben) Thompson, Orebru, Sweden, and Tabetha (Lee) Betty, Lewistown, MT; seventeen great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and two sisters: Marie Salzer of Rochester, NY and Ruth (Wilmer) Vollmer, Mobridge, SD.

- She was preceded in death by her parents: Billy and Anna; husband: Gilbert; two sisters: Helen Baier and Annabel Koch; brother Willard Koch; and a great-great grandson.