

April 1, 2008

The Life of Mary Alice Jensen

- Memorial services for Mary Alice Jensen, 80, of Groton will be 11:00 am, Saturday, April 5th at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Pastor Harold Salem will officiate. Inurnment will follow in Groton Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.
- Visitation will be held at the chapel from 4-8pm on Friday with a prayer service at 7:30 pm. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to services on Saturday.
- Mary Alice died March 29, 2008 at Golden Living Center, Groton.
- Mary Alice Blackmun was born in Groton on August 27, 1927 to Bertrum Cluaude and Hazel Dewetta (Bowder) Blackmum. She was their only child. Mary Alice attended elementary school in Groton and graduated as Valedictorian of her Groton High School Class of 1946.
- Following graduation she worked for her uncle,



Theodore Funk at Funk Hardware in Groton. Her aunt Pearl (Bowder) Funk and her Uncle "Teddy", who were childless, were like another set of parents to her. Mary Alice loved and served them until their deaths, as she did her own parents.

- Mary Alice was united in marriage to Robert Lincoln Jensen of Putney on August 27, 1947. The first year of their marriage the couple resided in California where their daughter Carol was born. They returned to Groton and Robert began to farm with his father, Frank Jensen of Putney. Their son, Steve, was born in 1949 and a daughter, Connie, was born in 1951. In 1956, Bob and Mary Alice purchased the Chris Jensen farm from his grandmother and they became residents of the Putney community. They lived in the one hundred year old farm house until 1997 when they retired to Aberdeen. Mary Alice was a loving and encouraging partner in their marriage, farming enterprise and in their life together on the farm.

- One of Mary Alice's special interests was national, state and local history. She was an avid reader of historical publications expanding her knowledge and appreciation of preservation and was active in this cause on the local level. For five years, she served as secretary of the Dakota Prairie Museum Board. She also

served as President of the Brown County Historical Society for whom she organized Brown County historical site bus tours for the South Dakota State Centennial celebration. Mary Alice served on the board which preserved the old Episcopal Church in Groton, built in 1884. When the City of Groton celebrated its 100 year anniversary in 1981, Mary Alice authored a very comprehensive narrative and pictorial history of the community. The Centennial compilation was a monumental task for which she was commended.

- Other interests have included a 50 year membership in the Putney Ladies Aid Society and happily contributing time and energy as an adult leader of the Putney Putover's 4-H Club. In this capacity, she encouraged many young women, including her own daughters, to become accomplished seamstresses, cooks, gardeners, public speakers, demonstrators and community servants. She was also a Lazy Farmers Boy's 4-H Club and a James Jimmy's midget baseball mom, as well as a Groton Band Booster.

- Mary Alice was a member the United Methodist Church of Groton, United Methodist Women, Merifue Study Club and she belonged to two bridge clubs. She was a knowledgeable antique collector and a family history and genealogy buff. She also shared a life-long interest in auto racing with her husband. Mary Alice dearly loved her grandchildren and made fabulous memories for them as they visited Grandpa Bob and Grandma Mary's farm.

- Preceded in death by her parents and husband of 55 years, Mary Alice will be deeply missed by family and friends. Grateful for having shared in her life are her three children; Carol (Dan) Collins of Ashville, North Carolina, Steve (Roxanne) Jensen of Groton, and Connie Rexroad of Boise, Idaho; eight grandchildren; Christa (Collins) Sherrod of Nashville, Tennessee, Daniel Ryan Collins of Charlotte, North Carolina, Rux Jensen of Aberdeen, Brett Jensen of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Cindy (Schneider) Pyle of Mountain View, Hawaii, Jim Schneider of Yakima, Washington, Margo (Schneider) Whisler of Seattle, Washington and Wilson Rexroad of Boise, Idaho. Mary Alice is also survived by eleven great-grandchildren; Alexander, David and Erik Jensen, Madeline, Mary Alice and Amelia Collins, Hannah Sherrod, Evelyn Schneider, Wilson Armond Schneider, Mark and Paul James Schneider.

Mary Alice Jensen, 80

Mary Alice Jensen, 80, Groton, died Saturday, March 29, 2008 at Golden Living Center, Groton.

Her memorial service will be 11 a.m., Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the United Methodist Church, Groton, with Pastor Harold Salem officiating. Inurnment will follow in Groton Union Cemetery, with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, in charge of arrangements.

Visitation will be at the chapel, 4-8 p.m. Friday, with a prayer service at 7:30 p.m. Visitation will continue for one hour prior to the service Saturday.

Mary Alice Blackmun was born in Groton, August 27, 1927 to Bertrum Claude and Hazel Dewetta (Bowder) Blackmun. She was their only child. Mary Alice attended elementary school in Groton and graduated as Valedictorian of her Groton High School Class of 1946.

After graduation, she worked for her uncle, Theodore Funk at Funk Hardware, Groton. Her aunt Pearl (Bowder) Funk and her Uncle "Teddy," who were childless, were like another set of parents to her. Mary Alice loved and served them until their deaths, as she did her own parents.

Mary Alice was united in marriage to Robert Lincoln Jensen, Putney, August 27, 1947. The first year of their marriage, the couple resided in California, where their daughter, Carol, was born. They returned to Groton and Robert began to farm with his father, Frank Jensen, Putney. Their son, Steve, was born in 1949 and a daughter, Connie, was born in 1951. In 1956, Bob and Mary Alice purchased the Chris Jensen farm from his grandmother and they became residents of the Putney community. They lived in the 100-year old farm house until 1997, when they retired to Aberdeen. Mary Alice was a loving and encouraging partner in their marriage, farming enterprise, and in their life together on the farm.

One of Mary Alice's special interests was national, state and local history. She was an avid reader of historical publications expanding her knowledge and appreciation of preservation and was active in this cause on the local level. For five years, she served as secretary of the Dakota Prairie Museum Board. She also served as President of the Brown County Historical Society for whom she organized Brown County historical site bus tours for the South Dakota State Centennial celebration. Mary Alice served on the board, which preserved the old Episcopal Church in Groton, built in 1884. When the City of Groton celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 1981, Mary Alice authored a very comprehensive narrative and pictorial history of the community. The Centennial compilation was a monumental task for which she was commended.

Other interests have included a 50-year membership in the Putney Ladies Aid Society and happily contributing time and energy as an adult leader of the Putney Putover's 4-H Club. In this capacity, she encouraged many young women, including her own daughters, to become accomplished seamstresses, cooks, gardeners, public speakers, demonstrators and community servants. She was also a Lazy Farmers Boy's 4-H Club and a James Jimmy's midget baseball mom, as well as a Groton Band Booster.

Mary Alice was a member the United Methodist Church, Groton; United Methodist Women; Merifue Study Club, and she belonged to two bridge clubs. She was a knowledgeable antique collector and a family history and genealogy buff. She also shared a life-long interest in auto racing with her husband. Mary Alice dearly loved her grandchildren and made fabulous memories for them, as they visited Grandpa Bob and Grandma Mary's farm.

Preceded her in death were her parents and husband of 55 years, Mary Alice will be deeply missed by family and friends.

Grateful for having shared in her life are her three children, Carol (Dan) Collins, Ashville, NC; Steve (Roxanne) Jensen, Groton, and Connie Rexroad, Boise, Idaho; eight grandchildren, Christa (Collins) Sherrod, Nashville, Tenn.; Daniel Ryan Collins, Charlotte, NC; Rux Jensen, Aberdeen; Brett Jensen, Blue Earth, Minn.; Cindy (Schnieder) Pyle, Mountain View, Hawaii; Jim Schnieder, Yakima, Wash.; Margo (Schnieder) Whisler, Seattle, Wash., and Wilson Rexroad, Boise, Idaho; 11 great grandchildren, Alexander, David and Erik Jensen; Madeline, Mary Alice and Amelia Collins; Hannah Sherrod; Evelyn Schneider; Wilson Armond Schneider; Mark and Paul James Schnieder.