

January 4, 2008

The Life of Clara Rix

- A celebration of the life of Clara Rix, 92, will be held at the Groton United Methodist Church on Saturday, January 5, at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jan Price will officiate. Burial will follow in Groton Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.
- Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel in Groton followed by a prayer service at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 4.
- Clara died surrounded by family on January 1, 2008 at Bethesda Home of Aberdeen.
- Clara Louise Ruden was born on October 1, 1915, to Oscar and Clara "Lil" (Thielke) Ruden in Grand Forks,



ND. After living briefly in Hettinger, ND, the family moved just northwest of Groton where the Ruden-Pray families still live today. Clara loved rural life and shared many outdoor experiences with brothers, Dick and Earl Ruden. Spending her elementary education years at township schools, Clara later attended Groton High School and graduated in 1933. One year at SDSU followed by three years at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago earned Clara a degree in nursing. Clara spent seven years working in the Chicago area, mainly connected to Cook Country Hospital.

- Feeling her nation calling, Clara enlisted in 1942 in the surgical department as a First Lieutenant. After basic training, Clara was shipped to North Africa and served in the 12th General Hospital Unit. Later, she was transferred to Italy and eventually joined the 39th Evacuation where she treated soldiers brought directly from battle. Clara ended her enlistment with brief tours of duty in Florence, Italy; Casablanca, Turkey; Miami, Florida; and Staten Island, New York.

- Returning to Groton in 1947, Clara was working as a private duty nurse when she met Merrill Rix. They were married in 1950 and built a home five miles north of Groton. Being a fun-loving, energetic person, Clara loved gardening, sewing, farmer's wife duties, and raising three daughters. During these family-raising years, Clara was extremely active in the Groton United Methodist Church serving in numerous positions. She also volunteered as the school nurse for Groton Schools for several years. After the child bearing years, Clara and Merrill built a home on Main Street in Groton. They also purchased a condo in Mesa, AZ, where they spent the winter months. Traveling extensively in the United States, as well as abroad in Europe, Asia, and Australia, Clara and Merrill enjoyed their retirement years.

- Clara and Merrill celebrated fifty years of marriage in 2000 just before Merrill passed away in August. Clara then devoted her time to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

- Celebrating Clara's life through memories are daughters and sons-in-law, Val and Larry Flihs; Candy and Bob Lee; Barb and Jack Schmidt; and one brother and two sisters-in-law, Dick and Gert Ruden and Twila Ruden. Seven grandchildren hold loving memories: Lance (JoAnn) Flihs, Jeff (Bridget) Flihs, Dawn (Mike) Imrie, Joslin Lee, Lindsey Lee, Halley Schmidt, and Taylor Schmidt. Six great-grandchildren were hugged and loved by Clara: Kamryn and Karsten Flihs, Madeline and Elizabeth Flihs, and Brooklyn Clara and Braxton Imrie. Five nieces and one nephew will remember "Auntie Clare".

- Clara is preceded in death by her husband, Merrill; one brother, Earl Ruden; and her parents.

Clara Rix, 92

Clara Rix, 92, Aberdeen and formerly Groton, died surrounded by family, Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008 at Bethesda Home, Aberdeen.

A celebration of the life of Clara was Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008 at the Groton United Methodist Church, with Pastor Jan Price officiating. Burial followed in Groton Union Cemetery, with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, in charge of arrangements. There was a prayer service at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, Friday evening, Jan. 4.



Clara Louise Ruden was born October 1, 1915 to Oscar and Clara "Lil" (Thielke) Ruden, Grand Forks, ND. After living briefly in Hettinger, ND, the family moved just northwest of Groton, where the Ruden-Pray families still live today. Clara loved rural life and shared many outdoor experiences with brothers, Dick and Earl Ruden. Spending her elementary education years at township schools, Clara later attended Groton High School, graduating in 1933. One year at SDSU, followed by three years at St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago, earned Clara a degree in nursing. She spent seven years working in the Chicago area, mainly connected to Cook Country Hospital.

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Clara and Merrill celebrated 50 years of marriage in 2000, just before Merrill died in August. Clara then devoted her time to her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Celebrating Clara's life through memories are her three daughters, Val (Larry) Fliehs; Candy (Bob) Lee; Barb (Jack) Schmidt; one brother, Dick (Gert) Ruden; one sister-in-law, Twila Ruden; seven grandchildren hold loving memories, Lance (JoAnn) Fliehs, Jeff (Bridget) Fliehs, Dawn (Mike) Imrie, Joslin Lee, Lindsey Lee, Halley Schmidt and Taylor Schmidt; six great grandchildren hugged and loved by Clara, Kamryn and Karsten Fliehs, Madeline and Elizabeth Fliehs, and Brooklyn Clara and Braxton Imrie; and five nieces and one nephew will remember "Auntie Clare."

Clara is preceded in death by her husband, Merrill; one brother, Earl Ruden, and her parents.