

The Life of Twila Ruden



Twila June (Sanborn) Ruden, 86, died on October 9, 2016 at Groton, SD. Funeral services will be held on Friday, October 14, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the Groton United Methodist Church, with Pastor Thomas Carlson officiating. Burial will be at Groton Union Cemetery following the church service. Paetznick- Garness Funeral Home of Groton is in charge of arrangements. There will be visitation on Thursday, October 13, 2016 from 4 - 7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Twila was born on June 23, 1930, in Adrian Township, rural Beebe, S.D. to Delmar C. Sanborn and Nina Pearl (Benson) Sanborn. Twila was the oldest of four children and lived in South Dakota all of her life. She grew up in Adrian, Huntley, and Rosette Townships in Edmunds County. She attended the Ipswich Congregational Church. She attended grade school in a country school in Rosette Township and in Ipswich Public School and graduated from Ipswich in 1948 as valedictorian of her class. In the 1940's, Twila was a 4-H Club member and earned a trip on her clothing project to the National 4-H Club Congress in 1949.

Following graduation, she spent a summer as a clerk in the Edmunds County Treasurer's Office. She attended South Dakota State University for one year and worked for three years in the business office of the Aberdeen American News. When living in Aberdeen, she attended the Plymouth Congregational Church and assisted with teaching Sunday School. She joined the Brown County Rural Youth Group whose objectives were to specialize, socialize, study, and serve. There she met Earl Ruden who was directing recreational activities, including square dancing. Earl was a farmer in Henry Township, rural Groton. In 1952, they were married at the Plymouth Congregational Church. They farmed in Henry Township for forty years and continued to live on the family farm after they retired. Attending their children's activities, family gatherings and holiday dinners were always a large part of their lives. Twila moved to Primrose Place Assisted Living Center in 2015 and was recently a resident at Groton Golden Living Center where she fell asleep.

Twila was a member of the Groton United Methodist Church for 64 years. She was an active member of the United Methodist Women, was a lay member to Annual Church Conference, a Sunday School Teacher for many years, and served on many committees.

Twila and Earl continued to support 4-H in Brown County through their children's membership in the Putney Putovers and the Lazy Farmers 4-H clubs. They also continued their friendship with Rural Youth Group members through the years. Twila was a member of Putney Ladies Aid for 63 years, Rip 'n Ravel Extension Club for 63 years, Diana Chapter, Order of Eastern Star for 51 years, spending forty of those years as secretary, and the Past Matrons Gavel Club of Diana Chapter. She wrote the Putney News for the Groton newspapers for many years. She was a 35-year member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, McPherson Chapter and, later, Laura Ingalls Wilder Chapter of Clark, serving as an officer for 12 years. She was a member of Chapter AC, P.E.O. in Groton, the Corral of Westerner's International, and the Yellowstone Trail Association. Twila served eight years on the Dacotah Prairie Museum Board of Trustees and six years on the Brown County Fair Board. She was a member of the Brown County and the South Dakota State Historical Societies.

In the years after her children were grown, she was employed at Viv's Bridal Wear and The Sewing Shoppe, both in Aberdeen, before retiring in 2010. She and Earl also had a home business, E and T Projects, a wood working and sewing business.

Twila is survived by two daughters, Laurie and Frank Ewalt of Billings, MT, and Carna (Atherton) and Cliff Pray of Groton, SD, and one son, Bradley and Kay Ruden of Bruce, SD; eight grandchildren, John and Jennie Ewalt, Broomfield, CO, Tony and Laura Ewalt, Great Falls, MT, Kristie (Ewalt) and Jason Hurlless, Meridian, ID, Paul and Erin Ewalt, Firestone, CO, Joshua and Merrie Atherton, Webster, SD, Adam and Becca Atherton, Grand Forks, ND, Nathan Atherton and Makenzie McPherson, Grand Forks, ND, and Kaitlin Ruden, Bruce, SD and three step grandchildren, Kevin Pray, Ferney, SD, Lisa Pray and Cody Monson, Aberdeen, SD and Jasper Pray, Boston, MA and 15 great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters-in-law, Del Sanborn of Ipswich, SD and Joann Sanborn of Leola, SD, and her brother-in-law, Richard Ruden of Groton, SD and their families.

She is preceded in death by her husband Earl in 2001, her parents, her sister Sharon Sanborn and brothers, Carl and Gerald Sanborn, a son-in-law, Randy Atherton, and one infant son.