



Elsie Louise Oedekoven

Elsie Louise Smith was born November 28, 1924, at Newell, SD, to Clarence and Hayla (Ekstrom) Smith. She graduated from Newell High School in 1942. Elsie worked at Bratton's Store in Newell for one year. She married Vernon Peter Oedekoven on November 28, 1943, in Newell. Together, they farmed and ranched on nine mile creek near Vale, SD.

Elsie was a past member of the Vale Lutheran Church, a social group of area ranch wives, known affectionately as the "Friendly Club", and the Butte County Historical Society. She had a great interest in genealogy. Elsie liked to read, paint, and enjoyed the arts and music. Family was very important to Elsie. She loved spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She loved all children and their hugs and kisses. She will be dearly missed by her family and her "Foothills Family."

At the time of her death she was a member of the Sturgis Church of Christ.

Elsie, 86, Sturgis, died Sunday, August 14, 2011, at the Sturgis Regional Hospital.

Survivors include her son, Wayne (Carol) Oedekoven, Vale; daughter, Holly Jo (David) Mielke, Belle Fourche; brother, Carl (Norma Jean) Smith, Council Bluffs, IA; sisters, Carolyn Oedekoven, Sturgis, and Shirley (Andy) Aronson, Spearfish; three grandchildren, Adam Oedekoven, Portland, OR, Debbie Oedekoven Meyer (D.J. Meyer), Spearfish, and April Oedekoven Halter (Kelly Halter), Rapid City; two great-grandchildren, Vernon Michael Halter and Harold Wayne Halter; and one step-great-grandchild, Denali Meyer.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Vernon; daughter, Sharon; brothers, Chester and Stanley; and sister, Fern Ryther.

Memorials have been established to the Vale Lutheran Church and the Sturgis Church of Christ.



In Loving Memory Of



Elsie Oedekoven

1924 ~ 2011

*The family invites everyone to a time of fellowship and lunch
in the church hall following the interment service.
We thank you for your presence and condolences.*



A Mother's Farewell To Her Children

*When I must leave you, for a little while,
Please do not grieve, and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years,
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same,
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways,
Reach out your hand in comfort and cheer
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*



In Loving Memory Of

Elsie Louise Oedekoven

Born

November 28, 1924
Newell, South Dakota

Died

August 14, 2011
Sturgis, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Wednesday, August 17, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.
Sturgis Church of Christ

Officiating

Pastor Josh Floyd

Special Music

Jeff Manley

"Blessed Assurance"

"It Is Well With My Soul"

"I Come To The Garden Alone"

"How Great Thou Art"

Pallbearers

Delwin Oedekoven ~ Darrell Oedekoven ~ Ricky Oedekoven
Johnny Berglund ~ Dale Oedekoven ~ Dan Oedekoven

Interment

Bear Butte Cemetery

