

## Secrie Lydia Ekberg

Secrie was born January 7, 1905, at Ashcroft, SD, to Andrew and Alina (Ylitalo) Peterson. She grew up in the Camp Crook area and attended country school. Secrie graduated from Bowman High School. She taught rural school for two years in Bullock, SD, after studying at Spearfish Teachers College and in Dickenson, ND. She then became the postmaster of Bullock, SD, until she married Harold M. Ekberg in Spearfish on November 19, 1929. The couple lived from 1946 to 1962 in the Slim Buttes area. They also ranched near Ladner and the South Cave Hills. They had a home in Buffalo while the kids went to school there. They sold the ranch due to Harold's health and moved to Belle Fourche. They spent winters in Arizona for 20 years. They moved to Spearfish in 1991. After Harold died in 1992, Secrie moved to Rapid City.

Secrie was a member of the Lutheran Church and ladies aid wherever she lived. Her most enjoyable hobby was oil painting. The walls in her home and family members' homes are a testament to her talent. She was an avid reader, and she played a mean game of Bridge. She was a ranch wife raising three children active in Cub Scout work, 4-H and rodeo, and she served as a willing worker wherever needed. Everyone knew her as a feisty Finlander, an amiable, capable, intelligent, and independently-spirited woman. She was a wonderful role model for living and dying with courage and dignity. She will be sorely missed. She wanted to be remembered as a silent builder of the American west who started with nothing, worked for everything, and left much behind.

Secrie Lydia Ekberg, 106, died Sunday, October 2, 2011, at Westhills Village Health Care in Rapid City.

She is survived by two sons, Jerome (Delores) Ekberg, Piedmont, SD, and Charles (Lynn) Ekberg, Boulder, CO; one daughter, Shera Street and her partner, Bruce Jordan, Galliano Island, BC, Canada; six grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews and their families in the United States and Canada; and other kin in Finland.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, three brothers, two sisters, and two grandsons.

Memorials have been established to St. James Lutheran Church and the Spearfish Senior Center.

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

*In Loving Memory Of*



*Secrie Ekberg*

*1905 ~ 2011*

***I'm Free***

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God has laid you see.  
I took His hand when I heard His call  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I found the peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joys - -  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow.  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief - -  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts, and peace to thee - -  
God wanted me now: He set me free.*

***In Loving Memory Of***

***Secrie Lydia Ekberg***

***Born***

January 7, 1905  
Ashcroft, South Dakota

***Died***

October 2, 2011  
Rapid City, South Dakota

***Memorial Service***

Thursday, October 6, 2011, at 2:00 p.m.  
St. James Lutheran Church  
Belle Fourche, South Dakota

***Officiating***

Pastor Jeff Otterman

***Special Music***

Pete Buer

***Musical Selections***

"Amazing Grace"  
"How Great Thou Art"

***Inurnment***

Pine Slope Cemetery  
Belle Fourche, South Dakota