

# Obituaries

## Alice Dorothea Isernhagen

Jan. 22, 1920 - Jan. 26, 2014

Alice Dorothea (Zweygardt) Isernhagen died Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014 at the Cheyenne County Hospital, just days after celebrating her 94th birthday at the Good Samaritan Village where she was a resident for the past six years.



Isernhagen

Alice was born Jan. 22, 1920, the second of 13 children of William and Martha (Hofman) Zweygardt. Her first language was German. She grew up in a Christian home one mile north of Salem Lutheran Church on Road 9, where her brother Harvey Zweygardt and his wife Phyllis now live.

Thanks to an upright piano in the living room, the Zweygardt home was filled with music. By listening to the radio, Alice taught herself to play by ear, and along with her other siblings who played piano, banjo, mandolin, and sang, they entertained each other. Alice walked to the White School west of the family farm, graduating from eighth grade there, but was needed at home and did not attend high school. When her older sister, Clara, died at age 6, Alice became the oldest child and her mother's helper.

Alice was baptized, confirmed, and married at Salem Lutheran Church. Many social activities for young people in those days revolved around church choir and Luther League, and one cute boy, Otto Isernhagen, was from the farm four miles south of hers.

She was 20 when they married on May 23, 1940, and a large German wedding party was held at her parents' farm followed by an old-fashioned shivaree. She recalled that night, when young people came out to the farm and woke them up for pranks and treats, one of the revelers asked her to play something on the piano. She sat down and played the first song that came to mind—"I wish I Were Single Again." Alice and Otto spent their honeymoon night upstairs in her parents' home, and moved in with Otto's parents, Georg and Elizabeth, the following day. For a few years, the newlyweds lived upstairs, until Georg and Elizabeth sold the farm to them and moved to town.

Alice worked alongside her husband as an able helpmate. She raised chickens, a big garden, and three children Glenn, Maxine and Fred. She knew how to help with harvest, butcher, can vegetables, sew clothes, and cook for large groups.

In the 1950s, Alice and Otto operated on their farm a small dairy, milking 30 cows, morning and night, which managed to see them through five years of hailed out wheat crops.

Alice cheered for her sons and daughter at high school football games and wrestling matches when they were competing or cheerleading. As faithful fans, she and Otto regularly followed the teams to out-of-town games. When their last child graduated and left for K-State, the milk cows were sold, and Alice and Otto made plans to get away more and visit their kids at college.

Alice cooked at the Good Samaritan Village for a few years, until Superintendent Carl Sperry hired her as head dietician for the St. Francis school cafeterias. In her 20-plus years there, her food service skills were honed, as she served large banquets in town, the most famous being the one honoring hometown hero, astronaut Ron Evans, where she managed the cooking and serving of over 600 people in less than 30 minutes.

Since Alice and Otto were not able to attend high school, they signed up to take the GED (General Education Diploma) course taught by Jacqueline Rogers in the winter of 1971-72. They were among the 23 adults who walked across the stage in cap and gown at Colby Community College in

the spring of 1972, finally graduating from high school. They went on to take college courses offered locally.

Alice's love of family led her and Otto to travel often to visit their children, grandchildren, and siblings near and far—in Topeka, Kansas City, Wichita, Colorado, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, New York, Florida, Iowa, Chicago, Arizona, Texas, Canada, Peru (South America). They were always on hand to celebrate graduations, weddings, births, bar mitzvahs, and baptisms. In 1996, Glenn, Fred, Louanne, Jonathan, and Erik took Alice and Otto to Germany for an "Isernhagen Family Roots Trip."

Alice and Otto were in Colorado when lightning struck their farm home and burned it to the ground the night of July 1, 2001. On their way back the next morning, they decided to rebuild, and were blessed by generous donations of help from the community. They lived on the farm until 2004, then bought a house in St. Francis. Since then, Glenn and Louanne Isernhagen have lived on the home place. It qualified as a Kansas Century Farm (100 years in the same family) in 2007.

Alice was welcoming, hospitable, accepting, and forgiving. She handled Otto's teasing with good humor, and made hosting 13 children and grandchildren returning for a week of wheat harvest look easy. Her life centered on the German values of "Kirche, Kinder, Küche" (Church, Family, Food). One grandson remembers her as quiet and unflappable, adding, "Grandma's life revolved around providing good food for her family, and the children at school, and a welcoming home when we wanted to return. She was a giver."

Alice was a faithful Christian all her life, serving as a Sunday school teacher, ALCW women's group leader, youth sponsor, and choir member at Salem, Zion and Peace Lutheran Churches. She read daily devotions aloud at the breakfast table with the family as a wife, mother and grandmother, living and sharing her faith. She enjoyed gardening, quilting, singing harmony, reading, and word puzzles. She was a "friend-keeper" and enjoyed people. She had a capacity to remember details such as birth dates, anniversaries, places, and events.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Martha Zweygardt, sisters, Clara and Mildred, brothers, Alvin, Martin, and Eldon, her husband Otto Isernhagen, and her daughter, Maxine Isernhagen Bardach.

She leaves to mourn her death her son, Glenn Isernhagen and his wife Louanne of St. Francis, and son, Fred Isernhagen and his wife, Jane, of Centennial, Colo. Her grandchildren and their families are: Jonathan and Jennifer Isernhagen, Thomas and Allison of Keller, Texas; Anne and David Husted, Benjamin and Abigail of Littleton, Colo. and Evan Husted of Lincoln, Neb; Louis Bardach and Rachael Bardach of Denver, Colo.; Robert and Reut Bardach, Max, Aiden and Ellie of Land O Lakes, Fla.; Erik and Anita Isernhagen, Ben and Jake, of Lone Tree, Colo.; Kira and Eric Pinkston, Centennial. Alice also leaves brothers Victor Zweygardt and wife, Darlene of St. Francis; Harvey Zweygardt and wife, Phyllis of St. Francis; Norman Zweygardt and wife, Donna of Phoenix, Ariz.; William Zweygardt and wife, Charlotte, of Sterling, Colo. and sisters Lenora Zeilinger and husband, Paul, of Phoenix; Sylvia Queen of St. Francis; Martha Zweygardt of Goodland, and sister-in-law, Martha Isernhagen Rahjes and husband Wesley, of Kensington, along with many nieces, nephews and friends.

Memorials may be given to the Good Samaritan Village of St. Francis, the St. Francis Senior Center, Peace Lutheran Church or Salem Lutheran Church. The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, at Peace Lutheran Church, St. Francis.

## Patty Ann (Oster) Gerver

April 26, 1929 - Jan. 21, 2014

Patty Ann Oster was born April 26, 1929, in Cheyenne County, Kan., to Bill and Ruby Oster.

She died on Jan. 21, 2014, at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis, Kan., at the age of 84.

She attended elementary and high school in St. Francis.

She married the love of her life, Wayne Gerver, on June 23, 1946. Two children were born to this union. Their daughter, Deanna, was born in 1949, and their son, Raymond was born in 1952.

Patty loved to do crafts of any kind, but especially crochet. She made each of her granddaughters an afghan, and also made several baby gifts, including frilly dresses for her great-granddaughters.

She enjoyed going fishing and camping with Wayne. He would fish and she would crochet and cook great meals in their camper trailer. They were happily married almost 51 years prior to Wayne's death in 1997.

Patty's greatest joy was her family. Her eyes would light up and she would be all smiles whenever she was with any of them. She loved visiting and playing cards with her family and her friends.

She was baptized and confirmed in the Zion Lutheran American Church in St. Francis. She had her

membership transferred to St. John Lutheran Church after moving to Bird City in 1959.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Vern, her daughter-in-law, Pam and her husband, Wayne.

Patty is survived by her daughter, Deanna Nelsen and husband, David of Bird City, her son, Ray Gerver and his wife, Pauletta of McCook, Neb.; sisters-in-law: Vola Fenner and Lila Oster; six granddaughters, Dana Barnett (fiance Don Barnhart), Denise Keltz (Max), Darcy Shields (Kale), Kelly Doyle (Kris), Trisha Zweygardt (Mike), Jannell Martinez (Victor), and three step grandchildren: Andy Hein (Kassandra), Jon Hein (friend Alison Jackson), Crystal Buscher (James), and 26 great-grandchildren. She also leaves a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral service was held Jan. 25 at St. John Lutheran Church, Bird City. Inurnment will be held at a later date in the Bird City Cemetery.



Gerver

## Kathryn L. Kuhlman

March 29, 1927 - Jan. 22, 2014

Longtime Goodland, resident Kathryn L. Kuhlman, 86, died Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014, at Good Samaritan Society—Sherman County in Goodland.

She was born March 29, 1927, at St. Francis, Kan., the daughter of Emma (Felzein) and James "Jim" Bracelin. She was baptized on May 15, 1927, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cheyenne County, Kan., and on June 21, 1942, she was confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Cheyenne County. She attended schools at Sunny Ridge District 44 School in Cheyenne County, and also in St. Francis.

On Aug. 4, 1946, she and Raymond George Kuhlman were married at St. Francis, and they made their home in Goodland. Her memberships included Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Goodland, Redwood EHU, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

Preceding her in death were her husband Raymond, who died July 5, 1993; grandson Michael Kuhlman; parents; three sisters Pearl Goeglein, Hollis Howard, and Dorothy Stephenson; three brothers Harold Bracelin, Warren Bracelin, and Rex Bracelin; and one infant brother.

Surviving family includes daughter Karen Hickson of Goodland; son Dallas Kuhlman and his wife Gay Jenkins of Goodland; four grandchildren Darren Hickson, Jason Hickson and his wife Tina, Michelle Owens and her husband Brian, and Matt Kuhlman and his wife Amanda; six great-grandchildren Linsey Owens, Morgan Powell,

Gage Owens, Cassidi Hickson, Gracie Hickson, and Aaron Owens; two sisters Wanda Smith of Yuma, Colo.; Joyce Lampe of Burlington, Colo.; and brother Don Bracelin and his wife Marilyn of El Sobrante, Calif.

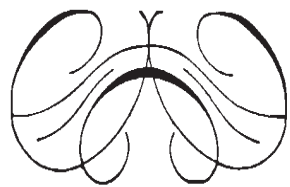
The funeral was held Jan. 25, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Goodland, with Pastor Darian Hybl officiating. Burial followed in the Goodland Cemetery.

Memorials may be designated to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Hospice Services of Sherman County, or Good Samaritan Society Sherman County, and may be left at or mailed to Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, KS 67735-1555.

Online condolences: [www.koonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.koonsfuneralhome.com)



Kuhlman



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## Vada Marie (Penn) Burkhalter

Nov. 24, 1918 - Jan. 22, 2014

Vada Marie (Penn) Burkhalter died at the Hester Home in Benkelman, Neb. on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at the age of 95.

She was born Nov. 24, 1918, to Alfreda and Bertha (Pettit) Penn. She was raised on a farm along with her three sisters, Violet, Velma, and Venita. She attended country school and later received a degree in cosmetology.

On May 18, 1941, she married Albert (Bus) Burkhalter in Imperial, Neb. Vada worked as a hair stylist at her Burkhalter Beauty Shop in Benkelman where she enjoyed a lengthy career, making lifelong friends along the way. Vada also helped Bus on the farm; she enjoyed living in the country, often commenting or taking photos of wildlife and their livestock. In her spare time, Vada made a lifelong hobby of working with her gifted hands, making beautiful quilts and embroidering countless works of art.

When her husband passed away in 1989, Vada chose to live independently on the farm for many years. She would pass the time helping her nephew, Gene Young, with livestock chores and walking about a quarter of a mile to get the mail, often stopping to dodge a snake or move a bird's nest.

Realizing that she might need a little help from time to time, Vada decided to move to Bird City in 2010. She still maintained much of her independence, continuing to drive until the age of 91. Vada enjoyed friends and family stopping by to visit; she always had a honey bun or a chocolate donut with a cup of coffee ready for company. Vada looked forward to getting her hair fixed on Fridays and made

sure there was time for lunch and visiting with her friends and family while in Benkelman.

She started a long-lasting tradition of a Memorial Day family gathering at her home, as spending time with her relatives was very important to her. Vada was a very hard worker, had a witty sense of humor and never complained about the pain she endured in her recent years.

Through the many years she lived independently, she was fortunate to have the help of many nieces, nephews, and friends who were always willing to assist her with numerous facets of her day-to-day life.

She was preceded in death by her parents, an infant sister Vera, sisters Velma, Violet, Venita, and her husband Albert. She is survived by her sister-in-laws, Alberta Main, Marjorie Lockwood, Donna Taynor, Shirley Lyon, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Serves were held at the Benkelman Community Center on Jan. 27. The service was officiated by Dr. Lonnie Willis and Pastor Jim Gleason. The casket bearers were Ethan Young, Randy Burkhalter, Larry Willis, Josh Sowers, Vinton Wolfe, and Byron Els. Honorary bearers were Verle Wolfe, Floyd Pettit, and Sage Waltemath. Interment took place at the Benkelman Cemetery. The Benkelman Memorial Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

A Memorial has been established to the Sarah Ann Hester Memorial Home of Benkelman, the Bird City Emergency Medical Services, or the Gideons.

Online condolences can be left at [liewerfuneralhome.com](http://liewerfuneralhome.com).

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