

Obituaries

Minnie Busse

Aug. 1, 1919 - Aug. 8, 2005
Minnie Louise Theresa Oestmann was born Aug. 1, 1919, on a farm near Auburn, Neb. Her parents were Ernst Frederick Franz Oestmann and Minna Sophia Bohling Oestmann. Minnie was baptized Aug. 24, 1919, by Reverend Theodore Streng Sr.

She learned to read and write German while attending German religious summer school. She was confirmed May 21, 1934, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hickory Grove, a country church only one mile from her home.

Minnie attended elementary school at Rohrs school, a one-room school house near her home. She attended Auburn High School where one of her favorite subjects was journalism. This enabled her to be on the newspaper staff.

After graduation she worked for German Mutual Insurance Association. She was active in Luther League and secretary of the Central District Luther League of the America Lutheran Church. She attended many Luther League conventions and Bible camps.

She met her future husband, Clarence, at one of these Bible camps. They were married Aug. 3, 1944, at St. John Lutheran Church, Posey, Texas, while Clarence was serving in the Army Air Force and stationed at Lubbock.

Following military service, Clarence and Minnie moved to a farm 12 miles south of Bird City, Kan., where they lived until Minnie's death on Aug. 8, 2005.

Minnie was a member of Extension Club for over 50 years, was active in the Women of the Church and was the Sunday school superintendent for 20 years. She also was a 4-H leader

for many years.

She was interested in the historical aspects of family, church, and community which prompted her to write a book titled "Sodbusters of Cheyenne County." She enjoyed the Thresher show and was honored to be the Thresher Show Queen in 2002.

Her main interest was in family and church. She spent much time writing and sending cards and praying for others.

Preceding her in death were parents, Ernst and Minna Oestmann, brother Art Oestmann, sisters Irene Oestmann and Hertha Remmers.

She leaves husband, Clarence; sons, Dan and wife, Lynn of Bird City, Dave and wife, Teri of Omaha, Neb., and daughter, Pat and husband, Jim of Houston, Texas; grandchildren, Ryan and wife, Sara of Kalispell, Mont., Cory and wife, Jenny of St. Francis, Andrea and husband, Bart of Lansford, N.D., Shane Jacobs of Omaha, Neb.; Lari Jacobs of Omaha, Craig Cooksey of Austin, Texas, Ky Cooksey of Austin and Kate Cooksey of San Marcos, Texas; great-grandchildren, Tate, Cassidy and Benjamin Busse, Henry, Joseph and Ginger Savelkoul, Lander Busse, Jake and Emily Jacobs; sister, Ella Bergmann of Auburn, Neb.; brother, Louis and wife, Ruth Oestmann of Cottonwood, Ariz.; sister-in-law, JoAnn Scott of Goodland and brother-in-law, Martin Busse of Bird City.

Funeral services were held Aug. 13 at St. John Lutheran Church, Bird City with Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler officiating.

Honorary pallbearers were members of the Pinochle Club, Martin Busse, Frieda Black,

Vernetta Haack, Keith and Hulda Dorsch, Walt Roesener, Esther Linin, Wayne and Erma Deeds.

Casket bearers were Ryan Busse, Cory Busse, Craig Cooksey, Ky Cooksey, Shane Jacobs, Steve Busse, Ron Busse.

Interment was in the Bird City Cemetery, Bird City. Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

Elizabeth Raile Kellner

July 10, 1909 - Aug. 11, 2005

Elizabeth Raile Kellner died in the home she shared with her son and daughter-in-law in Springville, Calif., on Aug. 11, 2005. She was born on the Gottlieb Raile homestead located 7 miles northwest of St. Francis on July 10, 1909, and the last of 16 children born to Gottlieb and Christina Gienger Raile. She was the surviving member of this large family, dying at the age of 96 years and 32 days.

She was married July 10, 1928, to Lloyd Kellner. She lived much of her life in western Kansas, moving to California in 1951. She and Lloyd remained in California the remainder of both their lives. He preceded her in death 11 years ago in Ventura, Calif., where she lived alone, until a year ago, moving to Springville to live with her son.

A graveside service was held at the Ivy Lawn Cemetery, Ventura, Aug. 16. Memorial donations may be made to the Cancer Fund, the Leukemia Fund or a fund of your choice.

Mrs. Kellner is survived by her two sons, Bruce (Michelle) of Glendale, Calif., Cleo (Virginia) of Springville, and her daughter, Dela (Roy) White of Agate, Colo., 10 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren, a brother-in-law, Bluford Kellner, Kanorado (aged 97), and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Lloyd, an infant daughter Neftal, her 15 other brothers and sisters, as well as, many nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Kellner had an active, full life, enjoying her family and friends, until earlier this year when her health declined. Her church was an important part of her life. Even when she and Lloyd would travel, they would always find a church to attend. Her last wish was to be able to go back to church for her 96th birthday last month which she did.

Her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews who often recall times shared with her will miss her. She truly was an end of an era.



DOG DAYS—Annie, left, belonging to Sam Miller and Libby, belonging to Steve Jenkins, enjoy playing around in a sandbox. The sandbox backhoe was won by Connie Jenkins during the fair. It was donated by Kanasans for Life.

Couple travels to California; attends grandson's wedding

Victor and Darlene Zwegardt enjoyed a long weekend trip to southern California to attend the wedding of their grandson Jeremy Steinbeck and his fiancée Kira Hannestad.

The Zwegardts flew from Denver to Long Beach on Thursday, July 21, and were met at the airport by daughter and son-in-law Cathy and Dan Gleason of Anchorage, Alaska, and grandchildren Timothy and Jennifer Steinbeck of Atlanta, Ga. Joining them for the extended weekend were daughter and son-in-law Susan and Jerry Pierce of El Cajon, Calif.

On Thursday evening, they all attended the wedding rehearsal and dinner with other family and friends.

The following day, they enjoyed a harbor cruise out of the twin Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, where they saw many cargo ships, large container-loading cranes and the U.S. Coast Guard Base on Terminal Island. The combined ports are the fifth largest in the world, with more than 35 percent of all waterborne container cargo passing through them. Also viewed on the cruise were a docked cruise ship, sailboats and groups of California

seal lions sunning themselves on buoys in the water.

Jeremy and Kira chose The Wayfarers Chapel in Rancho Palos Verdes, located on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, for their 10 a.m. wedding on Saturday. Victor and Darlene joined 100 guests in this chapel, also known as the "Glass Church," which sits on 3 1/2 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds and was designed by Lloyd Wright, son of famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright. This coastal area provided a very picturesque setting for the ceremony.

The reception, which included a delicious buffet brunch and traditional wedding cake, followed by a dance, was held at Ports O' Call Restaurant in San Pedro, overlooking the harbor area. Guests enjoyed wonderful views of ships sailing the harbor, including a rare sea voyage of the S.S. Lane Victory, a naval vessel used in World War II, the Korean and the Vietnam Wars. This ship is normally docked at the port for public tours, but is providing limited trips to Catalina Island this summer and was a treat to see on the open water.

Following the reception, Jeremy and Kira opened wedding

gifts in front of their families at the hotel in San Pedro where Victor and Darlene stayed.

The Zwegardts spent their last full day in California on Sunday with the Pierces and Gleasons viewing outdoor maritime exhibits across from their hotel before traveling to The Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove. This is where Dr. Robert Schuller broadcasts his weekly TV worship service "Hour of Power" to an international audience. The cathedral, dedicated in 1980, has more than 10,000 windows of tempered silver-colored glass held in place by white steel trusses, seats 2,890 and houses one of the five largest pipe organs in the world. The group toured the entire Crystal Cathedral campus, which included a beautiful Bell Tower, Memorial Garden, and many Biblical sculptures throughout the grounds. Sunday evening they rode a waterfront trolley car and drove to Cabrillo Beach, where they followed a pathway along the water and watched swimmers and wind surfers in the Pacific Ocean.

Victor and Darlene flew back to Denver on Monday and spent the night before returning home on Tuesday.

From The Library

Story hour enrollment on Monday

Story hour enrollment will begin Monday, Aug. 22 at the St. Francis Public Library. This is a free program for children ages 3 to 5 and are not in kindergarten. You must enroll to attend.

The participants meet Tuesday mornings for one hour sessions, which will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 6 and will follow the school schedule throughout the year.

Story hour consists of a time to play, participate in stories, circle games and songs, finger plays, flannel graphs and filmstrips. There are also sign-up sheets for those who would like to help with a holiday party.

Either go to the library or call 332-3292 to enroll.

Reading program successful

The St. Francis Public Library has completed very successful Summer Fun Sessions and Summer Reading Programs. Seventy-two children participated in the Summer Fun Sessions and 36 entered the reading program.

The top reader in the reading program was Sydney Sundstrom, who read 114 books and won a pizza certificate. The top girl was

Valerie Wurm. She read 96 books and won a kitten Beanie Baby. Tristan Archer was the top boys, who read 48 books. He won a monkey Beanie Baby. The Beanie Baby's were donated by Donna's Gift Palace.

Winnings in the M&M Contest were Dylan Peter and Matthisen Witzel. Everyone who competed should be congratulated.

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The St. Francis Swimming Pool will Close for the season Monday, August 22

The last day for swimming will be Sunday, August 21.

Pool Number: 332-3410

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