



## Thelma Benson

September 12, 1918 - February 22, 2012

Thelma Agnes Welken was born September 12, 1918, at her parents' home in Skandia Township in Barnes County, ND to Iver and Olga (Larson) Welken. At the age of 12, the family moved to Meadow Lake Township to another farm. She graduated from high school at Green School and attended Valley City State Teachers College. She taught in one-room schools in Skandia Township and Median, ND.

On September 21, 1940, Thelma married Bernard Benson. They lived on the family farm in Svea Township and raised their four children. In 1964, they moved to Valley City. In the late 1980's they purchased a home in Arizona and spent their winters there. They lived in St. Paul, MN from 1992-1996. After Bernard died in 1996, Thelma moved to Bismarck.

Thelma was a very creative lady. She loved art, music, and especially liked to write poetry. She always enjoyed visiting with friends and had a kind word for everyone. Most of all she loved her family and treasured the times she spent with her children and grandchildren.

Her Norwegian heritage was very important to her and she shared many stories and traditions with her family. She was proud that her name came from a book her father had read about a Norwegian princess named Thelma. She died February 22, 2012 at Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center in Bismarck, ND. She is survived by her daughter, Delores Erickson of Maple Grove, MN, son, Ralph (Kathy) Benson of Jamestown, ND, daughter, Donna (Jon) Nestoss of Bismarck; 9 grandchildren, Russell (Holly) Benson of St.

Cloud, MN, Richard (Stacy) Benson of Horace, ND, Angela (Kevin) Budke of Little Falls, MN, Brenda (Robert) Flueth of Shoreview, MN, Melissa (Lance) Brown of Joplin, MO, Kristen (Josh) Lynn of Minneapolis, MN, Kaari Erickson of Columbia Heights, MN, Erik (Sarah) Nestoss of San Diego, CA, and Peter Nestoss of Gwinner, ND; 13 great grandchildren; and 8 step-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; son, Ronald Benson; grandson, Patrick Benson; and brothers, Leonard and Elias Welken.

# Previous Events

## Service

FEB **25**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church  
3725 - 110th Ave. SE  
Valley City, ND 58072

# Tribute Wall



“ I am sending my sympathy to Thelma's family. I have memories of both your mother and father from my younger days living in Svea and going to school there. My sincere condolences to all of you. Kay (Carlson) Job##imported-begin##Kay (Carlson) Job##imported-end##

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February 25, 2012 at 08:11 PM



“ sorry to hear about your mother's passing. My mother Sylvia Fogderud always had good times with your mother. Your Mother was a very pleasant lady. Always enjoyed visiting with her. My thoughts and prayers are with your families.##imported-begin##MYRNA HAUGEN##imported-end##

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February 24, 2012 at 11:02 PM



“ I am sorry to say Verla and I will not be able to attend the funeral due to prior commitments. I have many fond memories of Aunt Thelma and these memories are heartwarming. She was a kind, compassionate person who saw good in everyone. My Dad would say about Thelma that he had never heard her say a harsh word about anyone. She and Bernard were a fixture in my early life providing excellent role models. I think of both often and they are missed.##imported-begin##Mark Berge##imported-end##

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February 24, 2012 at 11:51 AM