Leatha Bell was born on January 3, 1916, a daughter of John and Nettie (Cargo) Bell on a farm east of Bantry, ND. She was raised east of Bantry along the Mouse River, where she worked with her parents milking and haying. She attended Poplar Grove grade school and graduated from Upham High School.

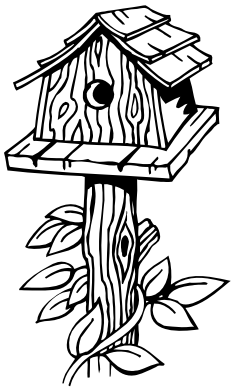
On January 15, 1937, she was united in marriage to Oscar Smette. They made their home near Upham, where they continued to farm. After having four children, they moved to Deering, ND where Oscar became the manager of the Farmers Co-Op Elevator. Her last two children were born in Deering, where the family lived for many years. Leatha was a member of Deering Lutheran Church, where she taught Sunday School and was a member of the Ladies Aid. She was also a 4-H leader.

Leatha was incredible with her hands, sewing most of her children's clothes, gardening, crafting and baking. In her later years, she kept busy with her hands crocheting, making afghans, quilts and sewing for her many dolls. At age 89, she started decorating bird houses with small stones and selling them at the Cozy Cottage. She loved to fish and watch the Minnesota Twins.

Leatha was a member of First Lutheran Church, and the ladies bible study group, Granville. She quilted with the church quilters for many years. In 2007, she delighted all her family with her hand written story of her "Little House on the Prairie" childhood. She experienced the last days of the Pony Express, her Dad notching out trees so she could find her way home in the woods and riding her horse wherever she went to the present fast paced life style.

Those Who Shared In Her Life:

Children: Annella Miller, Deering, Myron (Linda) Smette, Granville, Delila (Raymond) Miller, Oneida, TN, Donna (Kenneth) Grilley, Surrey, Deborah (Gary) Stratton, Deering, Douglas (Charlotte) Smette, Makoti; 15 grandchildren: Cindy (Tim) Anderson, Jerry (Dana) Miller, Jeff (Miriam) Smette, Jason (Nancy) Smette, John Smette, Renae Stephens, Greg Miller, Jeanna Grilley, Gail (Monte) Lundy, Jesse (Melissa) Grilley, Brenda (Paul) Fraley, Kevin (Tolli) Stratton, Colleen (Jason) Feller, Sarah (Daniel) Elissalde, Robert (Pam) Smette; 23 great-grandchildren: 4 great- great - grandchildren

Leatha was preceded in death by her husband Oscar, parents, infant brother, grandson Keith Smette, and son-in-law Raymond A. Miller.

Celebrating the Life
Of
Leatha L. Smette
1916-2009