

Tillie Louise Smetana was born November 7, 1911 in Bottineau County, near Lansford, ND, the daughter of Albert and Anna (Novy) Smetana. In 1915 her family moved south of Lansford to Van Buren Township, Renville County where she was reared and attended Van Buren Township Schools.

In 1937, she moved with her parents to Wisconsin. Her parents returned to North Dakota in 1941 and Tillie moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she was employed. She later moved back home to help care for her mother whose health was failing.

Tillie worked on and off the farm spending many harvest seasons cooking in cook cars. During this time she met her husband, Harry Sellin, who had come from Nebraska working on the threshing crews. Tillie and Harry were married on August 23, 1944 along with her brother, Jerry Smetana and Evelyn Davis in a double wedding at St. Leo's Catholic Church in Minot.

Following their marriage they lived and farmed in Van Buren Township, Renville County, until 1962 when they moved to Minot. Tillie and Harry lived in and managed the Stone Apartments in Minot. During this time Tillie also worked in several restaurants before becoming a baker at Minot State University, where she was employed for 10 years until her retirement. Harry died on June 25, 1970. Tillie continued to live in her own home until 2003, when she moved to Edgewood Vista for a short time before moving to the North Central Good Samaritan Center in Mohall.

Tillie continued to keep busy following retirement. She made and decorated cakes for various special occasions, such as, weddings and birthdays. Throughout her life she was active in the Catholic Church at St. Philomena's in Glenburn and later at Little Flower and Our Lady of Grace, both in Minot. She was active in St. Ann's Altar Society and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. She was a volunteer at Trinity Homes and also for the Our Lady of Grace Food Pantry. Tillie enjoyed dancing, playing cards and being with her special group of friends.

Those Who Shared In Her Life

Nieces and nephews, Dennis (Betty) Smetana, Linda Scott, Peggy Smetana, Becky (Gary) Volk, all of Minot, ND, Nikki (Gerry) Veilleux, Manchester, NH, Duane (Bernell) Leitzke, Moses Lake, WA, Everett (Marilyn) Leitzke, Missoula, MT, Marilyn Sauer, Glenburn, ND, Pearl (Richard) Sauer, Carpio, ND, Carolyn (Ardien) Tandberg, Deering, ND, Larry (Betty) Leitzke, Minot; numerous great-nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews.

Tillie was preceded in death by her husband, Harry Sellin; her parents, Albert and Anna Smetana; sister, Annie Leitzke; two brothers, Frank and Jerry Smetana; brother-in-law, Alvin Leitzke and sister-in-law, Evelyn Smetana.



Remembering the Life Of
Tillie Louise Sellin
1911 ~ 2008