

Verna Marian Christianson was born June 1, 1909 on the family farm, in Spencer Township, Ward County, south of Kenmare, ND, the daughter of Nels and Anna (Hansen) Christianson. She was baptized and confirmed at Our Saviors Lutheran Church near her home. She attended Spencer Township School and graduated from Kenmare High School with the Class of 1926. She attended Minot State College and earned her degree in Education in 1931.

Verna taught 11 years in North Dakota schools, the last eight years in elementary and junior high in Cando, ND. Verna married Harry E. Harris on September 8, 1934 and they moved to Cando in 1943.

While living in Cando she worked part-time with her husband at the Peavey Elevator and also worked at the County Treasurer's Office during the tax collection season for several years. She was First Aid Chairman for Towner County Red Cross for many years and Towner County Chairman of the National Foundation for Polio. When the Salk vaccine was approved in 1968, she organized the county through the schools, with the help from women's clubs, local doctors, nurses and volunteers, more than 2500 children and adults were immunized. Her last three years in Cando, she served as City Assessor.

While living in Cando, Verna was a member of the Cando Lutheran Church. She was an active member of the women's groups and served on the church board for many years as financial secretary. Verna and Harry maintained a home at the Mouse River Park, near Tolley, ND for 16 years and spent their last years in Kenmare, ND. While living in Kenmare Verna was a member of Nazareth Lutheran Church. Her husband, Harry died on November 27, 1996. Verna enjoyed reading, writing, travel, golf and all her family and friends.

#### **Those Who Shared In Her Life**

Daughter, Lois Baker and husband, Gordon of Montevideo, MN; four grandchildren, Anne Abercrombie and husband, Russell of Plano, TX, Harris Baker and wife, Patricia of Maplewood, MN, David Baker and Sherry Hropko of Harris, MN and Valerie Cooksey and husband Kevin of Phoenix, AZ; eight great-grandchildren, Benjamin, Emily, Rachel, Hannah, Jacob, Cody, Megan and Kaycee and by nieces and nephews.

Verna was preceded in death by her husband, Harry Harris; her parents, Nels and Anna Christianson; three brothers, Clifford, Alfred and Francis and sister, Doris.