



## Bessie Kerchal

November 7, 1915 – October 12, 2012

Bessie Rose (Antone) Kerchal, 96, longtime Ogallala resident, died Friday, October 12, 2012, in the Ogallala Community Hospital.

She was born November 7, 1915 at Palisade, Nebr., the daughter of Joseph and Antonia Nejdil Jirik Antone. She received her early education at Mission Ridge school in Hitchcock County.

On March 23, 1935 Bessie married Frank Kerchal at McCook, Nebr. and lived on the family farm north of Hayes Center, Nebr. Born to this union were two sons Eldon Frank and Ronald Lee and two daughters Linda Kay and Leane Elizabeth.



For much of her life she was a typical farmer's wife growing, harvesting, and preserving a garden, raising chickens and cooking for farm hands.

After moving to Ogallala in the mid 1960's, she was employed at TRW for seventeen years, retiring in 1980. Bessie was a member of St. Pauls Lutheran Church. Her hobbies included raising flowers and vegetables and painting. Bessie was self taught and her ability was beyond words. Our memories are many of our mother and grandmother. One of our fondest memories was her ability to keep peace and harmony.

Preceding her in death was her husband, parents, four sisters Mary, Agnes, Adeline, and Helen; and three half-brothers: James, Edward, and William Jirik.

Survivors include her children: Eldon Kerchal and his special friend Reta Wind of Lexington; Ronald (Anne) Kerchal of Sterling, Colo.; Linda Kuenning and Leane Kerchal, both of Ogallala. Six grandchildren: Dave (Kathy) Kerchal, and Rhonda (Bill) Bischoff, all of Wauneta; Steve (Linda) Kerchal of Culbertson; Lynette (Sam) Spence of Orlando, FL.; Shawna (Tim) Shelley of Loveland, Colo., and Steve (Bechi) Kerchal of Sterling, Colo. and five great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be Monday, October 15, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Draucker Funeral Home.

The funeral service will be Tuesday, at 10 a.m. in Draucker Funeral Home. Rev. Eric Wait of New Hope Church will officiate.

Interment is in the Riverside Cemetery at Wauneta, Nebr. following the funeral service. A memorial has been established in her memory.

Online condolences may be sent to [webmaster@drauckerfh.com](mailto:webmaster@drauckerfh.com).

Draucker Funeral Home of Ogallala is in charge of arrangements.