

The Nevada Journal Online

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November 21, 2002

Isabelle Gerke

Died Nov. 13, 2002

Isabelle Gerke, 84, of State Center, died of a stroke Wednesday, Nov. 13, at State Center Manor.

She was born in Conrad and had lived in Rhodes and Marshalltown before moving to State Center in 1938. She had farmed with her husband and was a food service worker with the West Marshall school system and a house cleaner before retiring. She was a member of Ladies Aide, Senior Citizens and Birthday Group. She enjoyed children and cooking.

Survivors include three daughters, Judy Gerke of State Center, Donna Gerke of Marshalltown and Kay Wendel of Atkins; three sons, Russell of Johnston, Dean of Snohomish, Wash., and Bob of Falls City, Va.; two sisters, Vivian Nelson of Clear Lake and Helen Phares of Cambridge; a brother, Arthur Turner of Zearing; five grandchildren; and three step-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Martin.

Services were held Saturday at St. John Lutheran Church in State Center, of which she was a member. Burial was at the church cemetery.

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OBITUARIES

Isabelle Gerke, 84

Isabelle Gerke, 84, State Center, died Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2002 at the State Center Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Funeral services and a celebration of her life was held Saturday, Nov. 9 at the St. John Lutheran Church north of State Center with Rev. Mike Maddick officiating. She was laid to rest in the St. John Cemetery. The Wensel-Perrin Funeral Home was entrusted with her final arrangements.

Born Laura Isabelle Turner on Jan. 15, 1918, at Conrad in Grundy County, she was the daughter of Norman and Burnice (Hill) Turner. She received her education in Rhodes, Marshalltown and graduated from the Liberty High School. While in school, she drove the schoolbus wagon pulled by horses Belle and Florie. She earned \$35 a month that was used to buy family shoes and other needed items.

On Sept. 3, 1938, she was united in marriage to Martin Gerke at St. John's Lutheran Church. The couple farmed north of State Center until moving to town in 1970. Mrs. Gerke was also employed with the West Marshall School System in food service and did housecleaning before and after marriage.

Isabelle was a member of the St. John Lutheran Church, the ladies aid of the church, the State Center Senior Citizens, the Birthday group and some neighborhood clubs. She will be fondly remembered as a devoted wife and loving mother who dearly loved family, cooking, family gatherings and children. She will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved her.

Left to mourn her loss are her six children: Judy Gerke of State Center, Donna Gerke of Marshalltown, Russell (Jeanne) Gerke of Johnston, Kay Wendel of Atkins, Dean Gerke of Snohomish, WA, and Bob (Sue) Gerke of Falls City, WA, grandchildren Steve Wendel, Lisa Seaba (children Mary Alice, Ben and Grace), Rosalyn Wendel (children Brett and Chase), Chris and Greg Gerke, step-grandchildren David and Ken Spence and Stacy Whitehead (son-Spencer), her sisters Vivian Nelson of Clear Lake, Helen Phares of Cambridge, and brother Arthur Turner of Zeoring as well as nieces and nephews.

In death she rejoins her loving husband Martin, who passed away in 1981, her parents and brother Forrest Turner.