Bessie Jansen

Bessie Fortuin Jansen was born on March 1, 1911, to Ruurd "Roy" and Jennie (Rozendaal) Fortuin in Crookston, Minnesota. Her family moved to Iowa when she was two weeks old, and she lived in the Sully area until 2009. She passed away Saturday morning, July 9, 2011, at her residence in the Hilltop Manor.

Bessie received her education through the eighth grade from the Iron Clad School south of Sully on the county line. On February 18, 1936, Bessie was united in marriage with Herman Jansen in Sully, Iowa. They were blessed with five children: Janice, Joyce, Ivan, Lois, and Bryce.

Bessie enjoyed being a wife and homemaker and cooking and baking for her family. She would often be found sewing, quilting, crocheting or playing games with her friends at Hilltop. Bessie liked to work in her garden, go bowling, fishing, and traveling in her earlier years. It could best be summed up that Bessie was happy and content with her lot in life. She confessed her faith at a young age and was a life-long member of the First Reformed Church of Sully.

Those left to cherish her memory are her children: Janice (Don) Cross of Newton, Joyce (deceased) and Larry (Sharon) Van Wyk of Searsboro, Ivan (deceased) and Shirley (Don) Orthner of South Carolina, Lois (Irvin) Vander Leest of Reasnor, and Bryce (Linda) Jansen of Leighton; her 17 grandchildren; 46 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; her sister-in-law Nellie Harthoorn of Pella, Iowa; and her brother-in-law John Vos of Sacramento, California.

She was preceded in death by her parents; by her husband, Herman in 1984; her son, Ivan Jansen; her daughter Joyce Van Wyk; her grandson, Curtis Vander Leest; two great-grandchildren; her sisters Cora De Kruyff, Rika Van Maanen, Marie Terpstra, and Jennie Vander Weerd; and numerous other relatives.

Bessie will be remembered for her kind and gentle nature, and will be missed by her large family and many friends.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 14, 2011, at the First Reformed Church of Sully. The Garden Chapel Funeral Home of Sully was in charge of the arrangements.