Mervin Rachel West Van Tomme, 93 of Brooklyn, formerly of Montezuma, died Thursday, October 1, 2015, at Brooklyn Community Estate, Brooklyn. A Sharing of Memories was held on Monday, Oct. 5 at Kloster Funeral Home in Brooklyn. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Brooklyn.

She is survived by her daughter Colette Pfetzing of Sacramento, California: nine grandchildren, Dennis Van Tomme II, Kelli Kelchen, Alison Corder, Garrett Pfetzing, Heather Burkart, Rachel Van Tomme, Gunther Pfetzing, Nicole Wagner, and Tiffany Van Tomme; seven great-grandchildren, Justin, Wyatt and Reagan Burt, and Caleb, Abbe, and Ellie Wagner, and one blessing yet to be named. They all kept their “Nannie” energized, but most of all, she appreciated their kind ways, and concern for her. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Rene Van Tomme in 2005; son, Dennis; two brothers, Robert and Clarence; and three sisters, Velma, Violet and Bonnie.

Mervin Rachel West was born September 21, 1922 in Toledo Township, Tama County, the daughter of Jesse Clarence West and Grace Ellen Hutchinson West. She attended the Tama County schools and married Rene Van Tomme on March 1, 1941 at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Tama. Following Rene’s return from the service, the couple settled in Montezuma. Rachel was a hard-working, loving mother and wife, and a wonderful cook, tending to her family. She enjoyed canning fruits and vegetables from her garden, reading, sketching pictures, quilting, sewing, knitting, crocheting, and embroidering for her family. Rachel was a wonderful friend to many and enjoyed helping others in need. She was a member of the Garden Club, Coffee Club and the Senior Exercise Club in Montezuma.

Rachel endured many trials in her life but always tried to maintain a positive attitude, which made her “priceless” to her children, family, and friends.