



Bernice Ashbaugh

August 15, 1916 - March 8, 2006

Bernice Marie Ashbaugh was born August 15, 1916 at Stephen, Minnesota. She passed away at the Lakewood Systems Hospital in Staples, Minnesota on March 8, 2006. She was the oldest of 8 children born to Albert and Lydia Rinkenberger of Morris, Minnesota. As a young girl, she moved with her family to a farm south of Morris where she attended country school. On June 11, 1936, she married Milford Ashbaugh and became a farm wife. They farmed at Morris and Donnelly, Minnesota before moving to Bertha in 1950. They lived on the farm south of Bertha until 1977 when they moved to the Horizon Manor Apartments. Milford passed away on March 4th, 1986. She continued to live in their apartment until 1996 when she moved to the housekeeping apartments at the Central Todd County Care Center in Clarissa, Minnesota and later moved into the nursing home. She was a kind and loving mother who loved to be surrounded by her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed cooking a good meal, reading her Bible and camping with her family. She was preceded in death by her husband Milford in 1986 and two brothers, Francis Rinkenberger of Morris and Arthur Rinkenberger of Mesa, Arizona. She is survived by seven children: daughters Janice (Ray) Koester of Long Prairie, MN, Betty (Darrel) Kapphahn of Eagle Bend, MN and Diane (Gary) Chock of Browerville, MN; sons Charles (LoAnn) of St. Louis Park, MN, Kenneth (Sandra) of Bertha, Lyle (Ines) of Bertha and Earl (Lisa) of Wadena, MN; 21 grandchildren, 33 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren. She is also survived by brothers Marlyn Rinkenberger of Chokio, MN and Joseph

Rinkenberger of Morris; sisters Irene Lavallier, Laverna Lesmeister and Esther Lembcke, all of Morris; aunt Lillie Luthi of Morris; and many nieces and nephews. Pallbearers will be her grandsons David Koester, Steven Ashbaugh, Shawn Ashbaugh, Mark Ashbaugh, Duane Chock and Brandon Ashbaugh. Honorary pallbearers are all her grandchildren. Interment is at the Zion Cemetery, west of Bertha.

Tribute Wall

JL

“ I am Bernice's nephew. My mom is LaVerna (Rinkenberger) Lesmeister. Our deepest and sincere sympathy to the family. I watched the video, it is very nice, what a great mother! 54 grandchildren and great grandchildren together and 3 great great grand children. What an awesome couple your parents were. Their lives will live long into their children, and their childrens children.

Jerry Lesmeister - March 08, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ I will always remember...

Playing hide and seek with her in her little 2 bedroom apartment.

Teaching us how to play cards in her kitchen.

Pretending to be farmers & doggies (when we were kids).

When she would show us all the christmas gifts she got from everyone and who they came from. It was always a conversation that would last the entire weekend sometimes!

Her Christmas cards that always had a couple of dollars in them.

Playing that board game called, 'Trouble'.

Her taking us to the Bertha park to play on the teeder totter and the swings.

Afternoon walks.

Her unbounded kindness and warmth.

Camping with the family.

Her laughter, hugs & kisses :)

Eating ham, bread and cream corn in her apartment when she had small little get togethers.

The video tribute reminded me of how out going and adventurous she was! She definately passed her 'out going' gene down to me! :)

My grandma will always remain close to me in spirit and in my memories.

Brian Ashbaugh - March 08, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in her family. We feel your loss.*

Dale and Betty Rinkenberger - March 08, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *I'll miss you*

Matthew Frederiksen - March 08, 2006 at 12:00 AM

J(

“ *I am thinking of everyone and wish I could be there today.*

Jenny Pierce (Koester) - March 08, 2006 at 12:00 AM

WA

“ *Berince what a wonderful women what more can you say, she no matter what had no ill word to say about anyone. I only wish someday I can grow to be half the woman Bernice was. Bernice was a fighter always she never gave up. Bernice made me glad to be part of this family, she made me feel as I was always loved I know me and my kids will forever remember and miss her sweet kisses and her warm hugs. I sign off with tears of sadness and joy for I know now she is in a better place. God Bless & Feel at Peace, Jen and Kids*

Wallace and - March 08, 2006 at 12:00 AM