



## Dorothy Johnson

February 26, 1919 - December 31, 2011

Dorothy Mildred Johnson, 92, died peacefully holding her daughter's hand and surrounded by family and loved ones, on December 31, 2011, at Fleshers Fairview Healthcare Center in Fairview, North Carolina. She was born to Frederick and Mildred (Bartlett) Borchers in Compton Township, Otter Tail County, MN, on February 26, 1919. She was united in marriage with the love of her life Winfred "Ole" Warren Johnson on February 6, 1942, in South Dakota. Ole passed away June 16, 2009. She attended school in Compton and Deer Creek and worked as a homemaker most of her life. She spent 37 years in Minnesota and 35 years in Southern California before moving back to the Deer Creek and Wadena area for 20 years. She lived her last year in North Carolina with her daughter, grandson and his family. She was of the Lutheran faith. She loved shopping, knitting, ceramics, baking, and Twins baseball. She particularly enjoyed her three great-grandchildren the last year of life. She is survived by her daughter Mary Ellen Johnson Lewis of Asheville, NC; son Mark and wife Ellie Johnson of Hemet, CA; three grandchildren, Casey Johnson and wife, Vanessa of Martinsburg, WV; Kirsten Johnson of Santa Ana, CA; Jonathan Kirshner and wife Shannon of Asheville; three great-grandchildren Harrison, Allison and Hanna Kirshner of Asheville; sisters Shirley Gedde of Staples, and Anita Mittleider of Troutville, OR; and brother Morris Borchers of Henning. She was preceded in death by her husband Ole on June 16, 2009; her parents Frederick and Mildred; and siblings Claire Center, Arkansas; Helen Thomas, Beth Gedde and Luther Borchers, all of

Oregon. Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2011 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Deer Creek, with Pastor Paul Yearyearn officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at Inman Cemetery in rural Henning.

# Tribute Wall

MJ

“ To my loving Mother,  
You always have been in our hearts as the best mom ever and will  
forever live with us until then.

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**Mark and Ellie Johnson** - December 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

IH

“ Dorothy was always glad to see anyone who  
stopped by. She truly loved her family.  
She will be missed. It was good she could just go to sleep and not  
have to suffer.

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**Ivan & Jo Haugen** - December 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ To my very special loving aunt. You were always so full of life and  
such a loving and caring aunt. I will always keep you close to my  
heart and remember all the fun times we shared.

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**Patricia Bassett** - December 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ I will miss Dorothy a lot, she was a good friend and we shared alot together.I first met her and Ole in a working relationship when they were looking for someone to help with the household cleaning. After meeting such a fun vibrant couple it soon turned into a close friendship. I was close to them during Ole's illness and tried to help her thru the hard times. We often discussed the pros and cons about leaving Wadena to be with her family. During her last few weeks in Wadena, her son Mark came and stayed with her, she enjoyed spending that special time with him. Then the move came and she always talked about how she enjoyed watching the great grandkids and how smart they all were. She talked about how she was treated like a queen by all of you. What a beautiful lady she was always had good things to say and kept herself beautiful both inside and out. She will be missed.

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**Clara Bauer** - December 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ I met Dorothy -- and Ole -- in California. Mary was a friend of mine and introduced my daughter and me to her California family. We became close friends and our life became complete with the many happy times we shared together. Memories that will live in my heart forever. Dorothy was very special to me and my daughter. When I last talked with her a few months ago she was still the gracious and loving Dorothy that I had known expressing love and gratitude for life and for those close to her. It twas a special gift to have shared a part of my life with her. God Bless.

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**Barbara Harman** - December 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ I was lucky enough to spend a huge amount of time with Dorothy, and Ole, when I was 4 and 5 years old. During that time, when my mother had a very busy work schedule, Dorothy warmly & generously opened her home to me. Dorothy was like a grandmother to me during that time. I have the fondest memories from the time spent with her in her home. She was the first person to teach me how to knit & when I picked up knitting on my own some thirty years later I still remembered her first lessons. Every single time I make pancakes in my cast iron skillet I remember standing on a step stool in Dorothy's kitchen making them with her (and how she showed me how to make Mickey Mouse shaped pancakes by connecting the circles of batter, as well as how to sprinkle a drop of water into the skillet to see if it skitters to test to see if the pan is ready). I remember hours & hours spent swimming in Dorothy & Ole's backyard pool, playing very carefully with the lipstick tree Dorothy had in her bathroom filled with several Avon sample lipsticks (I can still smell those lipsticks!), playing the living room organ, doing backward somersaults down Ole's extended legs as he held my hands, and I can't see a Pomeranian without reliving very fond memories of shared affection with their sweet dog Pooky. It is a blessing to have known Dorothy. My life & heart will forever be touched & influenced by Dorothy's genuine warmth, love, fun & kindness, for which I am eternally grateful.

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**Jennifer Harman Deslippe** - December 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ Grandma, I love you so, so much. Those were the last words I was able to say to you, but they do no justice to how I REALLY feel. You will be remembered as one of the most beautiful, amazing, and absolutely selfless individuals I have known in my life. Even if I live to 92 I do not think I will come to know another person as giving as you always have been. The last few weeks/days of your life you gave more to me than you were even physically able to. Your dedication, your gift to your family, was your entire life. I will try not to miss you because I know, like I always have, that no matter where I am, or where you are, you are with me...praying for my safety and telling me through our hearts how much you love and adore me no matter what.

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**Kirsten Johnson** - December 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM