



## Erna Hartung

March 20, 1918 - December 7, 2003

Erna Marie Hartung was born on March 20, 1918 at home in Oak Valley Township, Otter Tail County to Erwin and Edna (Erdmann) Ehlke. She graduated from high school and continued her studies to become a teacher. Erna was united in marriage with Charles William Hartung on June 1, 1941 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Bertha. Together they moved to the west coast for a year then returned to Bertha where she would live until after Charles passed away and health issues caused her to move to Wadena. Erna taught country schools for a number of years before settling in at the Bertha school system. She was a member of the Minnesota Education Association and the Bertha-Hewitt Education Association as well as getting together regularly with her colleagues as a member of the Retired Teacher's Club. Outside of work, Erna was very active as a member of the St. Paul's Ladies Aid and Bible Study groups. Over the years she bowled on various bowling leagues, joined a card club and was active in Pioneer Club. Although they were lifelong residents of the Bertha area, Erna and Charles rarely sat still. Erna was an avid follower of the activities of her nieces and nephews and their families. At concerts, sporting events, programs ... Erna would be found in the audience encouraging her extended family. She and Charles also enjoyed traveling, not only group bus trips, but as international travelers they had the opportunity to visit Russia, Australia, Alaska and many other places. Erna passed away on Sunday, December 7, 2003 at the Tri-County Hospital in Wadena at the age of 85. Erna was preceded in death by her husband Charles on August 2, 2002;

parents Erwin and Edna Ehlke; sister Rosemary Bebee; and niece Rosemary Wade. She is survived by her sister Harriet Pokorney of Bertha; sisters-in-law Betty Hartung of Bertha and Otelia Schmiege of Hackensack, MN; and a host of nieces and nephews. Memorial services were held on Friday, December 12, 2003 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Bertha with Reverend Blake Rickbeil officiating. Interment was in St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Bertha Township, Todd County, Minnesota.