



## Selda Benishek

January 8, 1927 - August 23, 2014

Memorial services for Selda Benishek of Long Prairie (formerly of Bertha) will be held in the Spring of 2015, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bartlett Township. Mrs. Benishek died at the age of 87 years on August 23, 2014 at Centra Care Health in Long Prairie.

Selda Rosalina and her Siamese twin sister, Elda Minna, were born January 8, 1927 in McLeod County, MN to Ferdinand and Lydia (Schuft) Alsleben of New Auburn. The babies were joined together at the abdomen and liver. On March 1, 1927, Dr. Hillard H. Holm successfully performed surgery at Glencoe Hospital in Glencoe, MN, and separated the two infants. Elda died July 29, 1936, of a heart defect. Selda moved with her family to a rural Grey Eagle farm in 1939. She graduated from 8th grade at Greenwood School in Round Prairie Township. At age 17, she moved with a girlfriend to Chicago, IL. She worked at various jobs until going to work at Hot Point. There she met Bernard (Ben) Benishek. They were married Oct. 16, 1948, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Long Prairie Township. They lived and worked in Chicago until moving to Waukegan, IL. Their next move was to Long Prairie, MN, where she worked for a time at the Ben Franklin store. They lived in Hopkins for a time before moving to a farm in Bartlett Township. Following the death of her husband, she sold the farm and moved to an apartment in Bertha. She was employed at Homecrest in Wadena until retiring July 1, 1994. She resided for several years at Bertha Manor Apartments. In March of 2014, she became a

resident of Centra Care Health in Long Prairie.

Selda was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township, Immanuel Ladies Aid, Bertha and Hewitt Senior Centers, Hewitt Historical Society, TCCA, the What-knot Club and Bertha Lionesses. She enjoyed gardening, playing cards and quilting.

Selda was preceded in death by her husband Ben on July 21, 1993; parents F.W and Lydia Alsleben; sisters Siamese twin Elda and Lorna Loges; brother Milo Alsleben; and foster brother Clarence Braband.

Survivors include brothers Darvin (Jeanette) Alsleben of Long Prairie, Orrin (Rose) Alsleben of Winthrop, and Larry (Bonnie) Alsleben of Grey Eagle; sisters Delaine Lindberg of Clearwater, MN, Melva (Robert) Jensen of Seattle, WA, and Paulette (Loren) Johnson of Long Prairie; special nephew Jim (Nan) Curran of Lake Mills, WI, and many, many nieces and nephews.

More information will be available at a later date.

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Sally Ackermann** - October 07, 2014 at 09:07 AM

SF

“ *I got to know Selda playing cards with her in Bertha. She was always so much fun and I loved her sense of humor. Her sister, Paulette, is married to my husband's second cousin, Loren. Selda was telling me a story at cards one Friday about her new car. She got in it to go somewhere and she didn't know how to start it, she didn't go anywhere for a few days until someone came to her rescue to show her how. She said: "Now don't you tell Paulette about this". She will be missed.*

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**Sherry Miller Frisk** - October 02, 2014 at 04:39 AM

GP

“ *Gerald Porter lit a candle in memory of Selda Benishek*



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**Gerald Porter** - September 18, 2014 at 06:26 PM

SS

“ Selda and Benny were our neighbors. They were very close friends of our family. After Benny died, Selda moved to Bertha. We still stayed very close to Selda. She celebrated most holidays at my parent's house. She loved coming out to play cards with my handicapped brother. My family loves jokes and Selda fit right in. She loved playing jokes on my brother and my dad, and of course they played jokes on her.

Selda was such a great part of our family, that my niece and nephew called her Grandma Selda. She was a "great" grandma to them. She gave them all her love. My niece was very close to Selda and misses her greatly.

After Selda retired from Homecrest, she really enjoyed life. She was very involved in her church, the Hewitt Lions, she delivered Meals on Wheels, she was involved with the grocery store in Hewitt, she enjoyed morning coffee at the Bertha Community Center. She loved movies.

Our family loved her stories about her life growing up, about her life with Benny, living in Chicago and the Cities. Her babysitting stories.

After Selda's car was taken away, she felt like she was a caged animal. She couldn't go play cards anymore. She couldn't go for morning coffee at the Community Center, she couldn't even go to get her hair done. She said she felt like there was nothing left to live for. We would get her for holidays and just for visits, but Selda hated to be away from home too long (due to health issues), so our times together diminished greatly.

We were going to call Selda to come out for a visit when the neighbor lady called to tell us that Selda had passed away. We were totally shocked and in disbelief. I wish the family members would have told us about Selda. Her family knew how close we were to her, but none of them have contacted us yet.

*We want to go to the memorial service, if we are not to late!! Selda's life needs to be celebrated greatly, because she was a greater-than-life person.*

*Sandi*

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**Sandi Sneed** - September 13, 2014 at 10:57 AM

RR

“ *Rachele "Rocky" Reese lit a candle in memory of Selda Benishek*



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**Rachele "Rocky" Reese** - September 09, 2014 at 07:49 PM

RR

*I always enjoyed Selda when we had a chance to visit at Homecrest. She was the only female welder for awhile, and she didn't let the guys get away with anything. Wonderful sense of humor.*

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**Rachele "Rocky" Reese** - September 09, 2014 at 07:51 PM

“ I was only blessed to meet Selda a few times. I wish we could have had a little more times. I first went to meet her in March. In 2013 someone had made the world's prettiest quilt for a benefit, but they had the quilt so you had to win the drawing to win the quilt. My little Granddaughter 5 at that time wanted it. I told her not to worry I would find who made that quilt and get her one. Well about ten months went by. I may have gotten busy or figured I had time. Well my Little niece Lily came down with Leukemia at the age of two. Oh no what we're we going to do? So we came up with the idea to have a Benefit. The hunt began to find who had made that other quilt from the other benefit. After a week of looking, I finally talked to Mrs. Lovelace, and she told me how to find Selda at the Manor in Bertha. I called and we set up a day in the middle of March for me to drop off the pieces for her to embroider. We sat and talked I'll bet three hours. She told us all about her twin and growing up. It was just like talking to one of my Grandmas. So I told her I would call her every week, but I always got the message the phone was disconnected. I was so worried something had happened so I went to her apartment and knocked and knocked. No answer.

I worried about her and not knowing who would know. All of a sudden one of the ladies in the manor across the hall opened the door and asked are you looking for Selda. I said yes I was wondering where she was or if something had happened to her. The lady across the hall said she was in Wadena Hospital. She told me that Selda was full of cancer. Oh what could I do for her? I'll go see her Monday morning at the hospital. I got the quilt blocks. They we're all done perfect. Oh, I hope she didn't get sick doing all this work to help Lily. Her friend across the hall got them for me.

I went Monday morning to see her and she wasn't in the Hospital so we called like 11 different nursing homes looking for her. Oh, where do I go now to find her? I couldn't stand to think she had passed before I could say thanks. My Mom found her in Long Prairie in the nursing home . I had told her when the quilt was finished I would bring it with me for her to see. And I did. They finished the quilting

*on the quilt at 6:00 on May 15th. I took it right down to Selda In Long Prairie. She remembered the quilt but not me, but she knew she had worked on for a little girl named Lily that had Cancer. After that we took a few pictures of her and the quilt. Then she wanted to go eat supper. She was a blessing when we needed one. We held Lily's Benefit May 16th. Selda is what this world needs more of.*

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**Lisa Line** - September 05, 2014 at 10:58 PM

LE

“ *Selda was a great lady. Loved stopping and visiting with her. She will be missed.* ”

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**Leona** - September 01, 2014 at 08:55 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Selda Benishek.* ”



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August 26, 2014 at 08:26 AM

LS

“ *Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of Selda Benishek* ”



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**Lea Snyder** - August 25, 2014 at 08:10 AM