



Hertha Johanne Hilstad

June 10, 1918 - May 5, 2015

Hertha J. Hilstad, age 96, of Circle, Montana passed away on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at the McCone County Health Center in Circle. Visitation will be from 10:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at the First Lutheran Church in Circle. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at the First Lutheran Church in Circle with Pastor Wade Brinkopf officiating. Interment will be in the Riverview Cemetery in Circle. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Hertha was born on June 10, 1918 in Rowe, Illinois to the Rev. Thomas and Hertha (Fylpaa) Thorson. She was raised and educated in Illinois and Iowa graduating from high school in 1936. After high school, Hertha attended Waldorf Junior College where she received her Associate of Art degree in 1938. She later attended St. Olaf College for two years and she completed her education at Concordia College when she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in 1970 at the age of 52.

During her time at Waldorf, Hertha made friends with people from Circle, who talked her into moving out to Montana. This is where she met and later married Milo Hilstad, they were united in marriage on March 27, 1944 in Omaha, Nebraska. Following their marriage, and after World War II, they lived on the original Hilstad homestead, which did not have any electricity or running water until Milo could finish building their home that is still on the Hilstad Ranch today. Hertha called this home until 1985 when she moved into Circle for one year before moving to Glendive 1986 where she remained until

health forced her to move into the McCone County Health Center in 2009 where she resided until her passing.

Hertha spent her life as a ranch wife, mother and a teacher. She taught off and on for 40 years in Everett, Washington, Rockwell City, Iowa and Circle. Hertha was a wonderful elementary music teacher, providing numerous musicals and operettas. Music was always very important to her, as she played for many funerals, weddings and Sunday services over the years, both in Circle and her winter home in Apache Junction, Arizona. Above all else, her family was most important to her, Hertha loved spending time with them and passing on her Norwegian customs. Hertha enjoyed crocheting, knitting, sewing early in life as she made many of her children's clothes. Later in life Hertha started painting and making clocks and jewelry and traveling abroad to Norway and China. She had a wonderful sense of humor and loved visiting. Hertha was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Milo in 1981; one sister, Esther Mosbo; and two brothers, Dr. Thomas Thorson and Rev. Johan Thorson.

She is survived by her son, L.D. Jackson (Nancy) Hilstad of Buffalo, Wyoming; her daughter, Heather Moon of Circle; three grandchildren, Joey (Brian) Wagner of Circle, Cody Hilstad of Laramie, Wyoming and Sage Hilstad, JD of Rock Springs, Wyoming; two great-grandchildren, Shannon Moon and Jaimie Maves; four nieces; and eight nephews.

Memorials are suggested to the First Lutheran Church in Circle % The Milo and Hertha Hilstad Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.silhafuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

First Lutheran Church
1200 Avenue C
Circle, MT 59215

Service

MAY 14. 11:00 AM (MT)

First Lutheran Church
1200 Avenue C
Circle, MT 59215

Tribute Wall



“ *Hertha Johanne Hilstad*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *I am saddened to hear of Mrs Hilstad's passing. She was an inspiration to me as music education was my life. I remember visiting her in the Circle nursing home 2 years ago...we reminisced about The Frog Prince when our class was 3rd graders. We even had a reunion when we were in CHS. She attended many of my concerts with the "ladies" from Circle here in Glendive. God Bless all of her family. I will cherish her always.*

Todd Naasz - May 10, 2015 at 09:58 PM

CH

“ One of my favorite things about my grandmother was her wonderful sense of humor, even at 96 she was still cracking jokes. Like her sports care license plate professed- she was often "jst kdyn" Heita was exceptionally virtuous and honest- she used to swear that she had never told a lie. To prove her wrong, Ted, her neighbor, and us grand-kids kept a lie tally on her fridge, and every time she claimed that we made a mark. I'm sure however, that she was indeed telling the truth.

I will miss playing parcheesi with her. She had dubbed the game "kill grandma," after it appeared that Sage and I seemed to collude against her. Nonetheless, she always took her losses with a smile.

I will miss our trips for ice-cream, making chokecherry jam, picking raspberries from her garden, hunting coyotes, and having tea with Kenney Losett. I will not miss pulling weeds. Rest in piece granny smalls- you will not be soon forgotten.

Cody Hilstad - May 10, 2015 at 12:23 AM

VC

“ Sending sincerest sympathies on the loss of your mother. I visited her many times when she was living at the Heritage in Glendive. I looked forward to the days when I would take a church bulletin to her and we would visit. A very fine friendly Christian lady. God's comfort and peace to you.

*Verna Carpenter
Glendive, MT*

Verna Carpenter - May 08, 2015 at 12:28 PM

AA

“ Dear Loring and Heather, It was my good pleasure to get to know Hertha when she was attending Zion during her years in Glendive when I was pastor. Over coffee and communion she shared many good stories of her early life with me. She was a treasure. You will miss her. God bless her memory among us and may she rest in peace.

Avis Anderson

Avis Anderson - May 08, 2015 at 10:47 AM

FH

“ Heather and Family,
We were so sorry to hear that your mother had passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with you
Frank & Meg Hernandez

Frank and Meg Hernandez - May 07, 2015 at 03:12 PM

PH

“ I had the privilege of ministering to Hertha with pastoral visits of scripture readings and giving her communion when I served as interim pastor at First Lutheran Church in Circle from March -August of 2012 and again from August of 2013 to June 15, 2014. I learned from friends and residents of Circle that she was a great lady and an dedicated servant of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Stan Hoobing

Pastofr Stan Hoobing - May 07, 2015 at 09:34 AM

DM

I received word this past week that Hertha Hilstad had passed away. That brought to mind some memories of Hertha.

I am not sure what year we started, but Hertha recognized some vocal abilities in four of us. That would be me, her son Loring, her nephew Gordon Hilstad and John Brown. She worked with the four of us to form a barbershop quartet.

We would meet at the Hilstad farm home South of Circle to practice and she would accompany on the piano. Hertha obtained the music and we eventually got to the point where we were performing from time to time at events in Circle. There is a photo of us in the 1964 Circle High School yearbook singing at a school concert.

Gordy and I graduated in 1964 so as far as I know the quartet ended at that time.

Hertha was always bright and positive and helped us sing to the best of our abilities. She is truly one who will be missed. Each time I have visited Circle in the past, I have visited with her at the nursing home except my last time. She was sleeping when I stopped by so did not get to talk with her. I regret not getting the chance to do that.

*Dave Melrose
Class of 1964
Sun City, Arizona*

Dave Melrose - May 09, 2015 at 09:34 PM

JH

*Heather and family,
As my father would have said to you "well girl she is a prisoner relieved" I didn't understand for years but your wonderful Mother and Grandma is whole and happy again. So very sorry for your loss and wish I could be there for you but will see you all in 2 weeks. We will visit about the good days when we all were younger. Much love and know you all are in my thoughts.*

Joyce

Joyce Hogan - May 12, 2015 at 07:34 PM

RV

The "Banner" finally arrived in Arizona and I learned of Hertha's passing. We all know she is in a better place with our Lord, but that doesn't make you miss her any less. So sorry for your loss.

I remember Hertha was always a smiling, pleasant and helpful lady as the organist at church through my confirmation and high school choir years. She was also the organist at my marriage to Charles Vaughan Sept. 1, 1957 when the church ladies served a wonderful chicken dinner for our guests. After 58 years of marriage, complications of Alzheimers freed his soul to go home to Jesus just last month.

I remember good times with Hertha in Arizona, too, in later years since she lived just down the street from my mother, Bertie Groh, in the Lost Dutchman Resort on Plaza in downtown Apache Junction. A lot has changed here since then, as it seems to do everywhere over time. Mom was 96 when she died also.

*We know they lived full, good, pioneering lives, but that doesn't make it any easier to say goodbye to them. Their memories will always be with us. Chin up---Sincerely,
Roberda VanVliet Groh Vaughan*

Roberda Vaughan - May 24, 2015 at 11:55 PM