



## Rita Melvin

July 11, 1918 - August 28, 2007

Rita Kathryn (Horner) Melvin, age 89, of Beach, North Dakota, passed away Tuesday, August 28, 2007, at St. Benedicts Nursing Home in Dickinson, North Dakota. Having always sung to her children, it was fitting that she died while her son was singing softly to her. Silvernale-Silha Funeral Home of Beach, North Dakota, is entrusted with arrangements. No funeral services are planned. Graveside services will be held at a later date. The family has requested that those who wish to do so contribute to their favorite charity in her memory. Rita was born July 11, 1918, the daughter of Raymond and Edna (Sickles) Horner in Monmouth County, New Jersey. She spent her youth on the Atlantic coast. After graduating from Neptune High School at the age of 16, she worked as a secretary in Washington, D.C., and later New York City, where she met her future husband William S. Melvin. They were married December 17, 1939. By 1943, Bill and Rita had two children, Bill Jr. and Edna, and had moved to North Dakota to operate the Caldwell/Melvin farm. The vast contrast from Atlantic shores to the treeless prairie was a challenge but she grew to love North Dakota and the farming way of life. Bill and Rita remodeled the old Caldwell country school into a snug little cottage and three more children, Dick, Don, and Kathy were born in the next few years. They moved into Beach in 1956, continuing to farm until semi-retiring in the mid eighties. In addition to raising five children, and feeding potato and harvest crews, Rita pitched in whenever needed in the farm operation, handling the mountains and valleys with the same steadfast perseverance and prayers. Rita loved to

spend time with her family. She also loved long drives in the country, looking for arrowheads, and playing Bridge. She was an avid reader and a talented writer, doing feature stories for area newspapers with her photographer friend, Doris Fahlstrom. In later years she and Bill traveled extensively by car throughout the United States, visiting many of the places they had read about. Rita was preceded in death by her husband Bill in 2003; her parents; her brothers: Jim and Ray; and one son-in-law, Paul Blickensderfer. Rita is survived by five children and seventeen grandchildren: William Melvin, Jr., and his wife Carol of Texas and their children: William S. "Scott" Melvin, III and his wife Amy; Wendy Sue (George) McKean, Cheryl McCallister, August C. Melvin, Steven R. (Onca) Melvin, Mary Beth Melvin and John A. Melvin. Edna (Blickensderfer) and her husband Robert Keller, of Mott, North Dakota, and their children: John Blickensderfer, Tracy (Miles) Porter, Kent (Tessica) Blickensderfer, Robbie Keller, Jennifer (Mike) Shafer, and Ryan Keller. Richard Melvin, Beach, and his sons, Dave (Cricket) Melvin, and Jeff Melvin, and their mother Mary. Don Melvin, and his daughter, Jessica Melvin. Kathy and her husband, Gil Ebner and son Eric, of Richville, Minnesota. She is also survived by fourteen great grandchildren, four nieces, one nephew, her sister-in-law, Dot Horner, and many friends.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rita Melvin*

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December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM