

Opal Alice Schoenenberger, 90, of Burwell, Nebraska formerly of Bassett, Nebraska died April 28, 2012 at the Community Memorial Health Center in Burwell, Nebraska.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday, May 3, 2012 at the Sandhills Baptist Fellowship in Ericson, Nebraska. Burial will be in the Stuart Cemetery in Stuart, Nebraska at 2:30 p.m. Visitation will be Wednesday from 5 – 7 p.m. at church. Memorials are suggested to the Rock County Senior Center in Bassett. Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell, Nebraska is in charge of arrangements.

Opal Alice Peterson was born to Orley A. and Dora M. (Johnson) Peterson on June 16, 1921 at Ponylake, NE. She attended rural elementary and high school in Rock County and college at Wayne, NE. She taught 2 years of elementary school in Rock County.

On December 20, 1942, she married Chester J. Schoenenberger. They lived and worked on his father's farm northeast of Newport, NE. While there, two sons were born, Jerry Wayne in 1944 and Alan Richard in 1946. In 1947, they moved south of Newport to Orley Peterson's ranch to work. In 1950 and 1953, two daughters were born, Alice Joy and Myra Jean, to join the family.

Chester died in 1976 in Omaha, NE during heart surgery. In 1977, Opal moved into Bassett, living there until 1990 when she married Louis Klasna of Spencer and they shared time between their homes. In 1998, Louis died and Opal returned to Bassett to her home.

Opal helped start the Rock County Senior Center, serving on the Center board. She also served on the governor's board for the Northeast Area Agency on Aging in Norfolk. She was a member of Spencer Lion's Club and was a counselor for Service of Retired Executives counseling small businesses. Opal loved dancing, cooking, sewing, and politics.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands, Chester and Louis; brother, Wayne Peterson; daughter, Myra Jean Hazard; 3 grandsons, James, William and Lee; and two infant great-grandchildren.

She is survived by sons Jerry and wife Milrae Schoenenberger of Ericson, Nebraska and Alan and wife Diana Schoenenberger of Keenesburg, Colorado and daughter Alice Joy and husband Michael Stork of Fremont, Nebraska and son-in-law, Terry Hazard of Omaha, Nebraska; 10 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren. She is also survived by her step-daughter Nola and husband Morris Hagberg and their family of Spencer, Nebraska.