

TOBY L. CLINCH, AGE 89, OF BURWELL

Bertha Leone "Toby" Clinch, 89, of Burwell, Nebraska passed away Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at the Burwell Community Health Center.

Bertha was born August 23, 1923 to Archie & Alta (Beall) Coberly in Moorhead, Iowa. She spent her early childhood on the farm with older brothers, Loren & Clayton, moving to town with her parents when her older brother, Loren, took over management. She was a member of First Christian Church, in Moorhead, and graduated from High School in 1940. She moved to Omaha following graduation to continue her schooling, but quickly joined the war effort as one of the youngest to be admitted to the American Red Cross by Elinor Roosevelt. The Red Cross sent her to Texas. Following the war she returned to Omaha and met Leo Clinch, from Greeley, Nebraska, who had just graduated from Creighton Law School.

Leo and Toby were married in November of 1949, and moved to Burwell where Leo worked for Attorney Ben Rose. They raised their family in Burwell, spending summers at their home on Pelican Lake in northern Minnesota.

Toby was an incredible mother, raising four children, Patricia, Steve, Mike and Leo Jr. She loved being a housewife and mother and was involved in many organizations, including Domestic Science Club, Eastern Star, Jobs Daughters, Peo, her children's activities and especially her church, the First Congregational. Besides her own children, she was involved in the lives of many youth throughout her time in Burwell, mentoring, supporting and believing in their dreams. She never forgot her Iowa roots and remained close to her brothers, and their surviving children, and grandchildren.

One of her favorite pastimes was playing bridge; she belonged to several groups and was known as an accomplished player. Wherever she went, Minnesota, Arizona, or around Nebraska, she happily played. She was a wonderful and loyal friend. Even as her life grew dimmer as a result of muscular degeneration she played with larger cards as long as she could. Her quiet times were spent listening to "talking books".

Her biggest joy was her family and she loved them all.

Toby was preceded in death by her parents, son, Michael, in 1978, husband, Leo, in 1980 and grandson, Asa, in 2005.

Survivors include a daughter, Trisha and husband Dale Crandall, grandson Brian and wife Lynn Crandall, great grandchildren Kathryn & Michael Crandall, son Dr. Steve Clinch and wife Cindy, and grandson Dr. Sam Clinch, son Leo Jr ("Sam") and wife Bobbi, and grandchildren Ellen and Michael Clinch. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews, "unofficially adopted" son Bob Hamilton and his children, and many close friends.

Memorials are suggested to Kamp Kaleo or the Congregational church in Burwell.