



Martha Clara Olsen

DEC 4, 1915 - JUL 18, 2017



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Martha Clara Olsen

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Martha Clara Olsen (nee Meissner), 101 years of age, with her strong faith, peacefully passed away at 2:00 a.m. on July 18, 2017. Martha was born on December 4, 1915 in the Town of Raymond, Wisconsin.

Martha outlived her parents: Gustave and Martha Meissner (nee Baker), her brothers: Simon, Glenn, Roy and sisters: Donnette Geissner, Esther Buschke and Mildred Yurkievich. In her immediate Olsen family, she was preceded in death by her middle son, Todd Ellis Olsen, who was killed in a car accident in 1959; and her husband Rodney Howard Olsen, who died from heart disease in 1969.

She is survived by her eldest son: Ronald Howard Olsen (Anne) of Laramie, WY: (grandchildren: Todd Olsen (Great Granddaughters: Carmen Olsen, Kaili Olsen (Gr-Great Granddaughters: Kiara Chavez and Olivia Cox); Ronda (Drew) Warnke (Great Granddaughters: Naci Warnke, Aria (Rick) Barker (Gr-Great Granddaughters Madeline and Eleanor Barker); and youngest son Rodney James Olsen (Jean) of Fort Collins, CO: (Grandchildren: Christopher (Daphne Bureau) Olsen, (Great Granddaughter, Olivia Olsen), Chadwick (Michelle Wilke) Olsen (Great Granddaughters: Lydia , Charlotte and Eliza Wilke-Olsen; and Petra (Heidi Servi) Olsen, (Great Grandsons: Emmett and Jacob Servi-Olsen).

Martha had a long full life. As a girl, she helped with her parent's cabbage and vegetable farm in rural Racine County, WI. As a young woman she was wife and mother in the Olsen family, first on Green Street in the city of Racine, WI and later on Stuart Road in rural Racine County. Here Martha was an active mother with her three boys, and she remained very active in bowling, played some golf, was a supporting mother in Cub Scouting and Scouting, as a den mother and was the family chauffeur. She found time to be a charter member of an area Sewing Club, volunteer working many projects for the support and building of the Mount Pleasant Memorial Park in Franksville, WI. She worked and volunteered with her husband and family in the building of the Bartlett Youth Foundation on the corner of Stuart Road and Spring Street in the mid-50's. She was a faithful member of Grace Chapel Lutheran Church, Racine, WI. When her boys



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entered Racine Lutheran High School she was an active member of the Ladies Guild, and she was there to assist the opening of the Thrift Shop which has been a strong financial supplement to LHS. She continued to volunteer and support the Thrift Shop for many years following her boys attendance. After her husband passed in 1969 she had to step in and run the family farm and "Recreate" Campground near Tomahawk, WI. When she sold the farm and campground and retired, she moved to an apartment in Franksville WI for several years, then to a condo Mount Pleasant (Racine), WI.

During her years in Franksville and Mount Pleasant, she became involved in quilting. Martha does have a quilt on display at the quilting museum in Golden, CO. Martha has always loved to visit antique stores with her sister Mildred; but most of all she enjoyed playing cards with family and friends, basically, Pinochle and Sheepshead. She was an accomplished fishing grandma and taught her son and grandchildren to use her favorite bait "the Pinkie". In her final years she moved to Colorado to be near her sons.

A Memorial Service for Martha will be held at Wilson Funeral Home (1212 Lathrop Avenue, Racine, WI) on Friday, August 4, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. A time of visitation will be held at the funeral home on Friday from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service. Online condolences may be made at www.wilsonfuneralhomeinc.com.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorial donations to Racine Lutheran High School, Racine, WI, and/or Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Collins, CO.



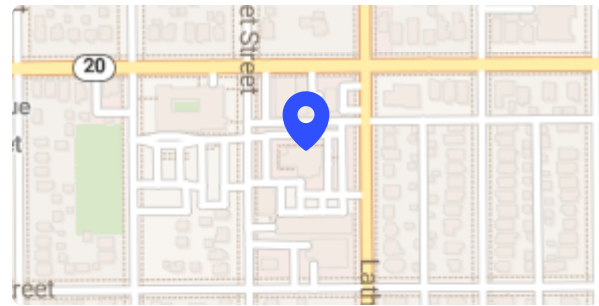
Events

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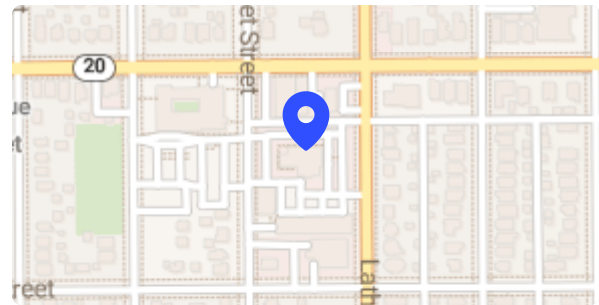
Visitation

- Friday, August 4, 2017**
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT
- Wilson Funeral Home - Racine**
1212 Lathrop Ave, Racine WI 53405



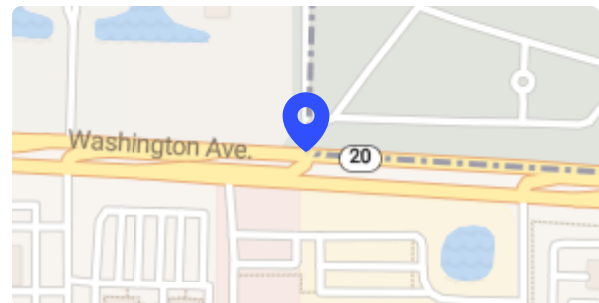
Memorial Service

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- 11:00 AM CT
- Wilson Funeral Home - Racine**
1212 Lathrop Ave, Racine WI 53405



Cemetery Details

- West Lawn Memorial Park**
9000 Washington Avenue, Mount Pleasant WI 53406





Tribute Wall

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JB

Judy (Nee Andersen) Barski posted:

Although I can't be present to celebrate her lengthy time here on earth, I have some heartfelt thoughts I'd like to share about Martha Olsen. When I hear her name, thoughts of gratefulness immediately begin to surface for the many cherished moments shared with her family and mine during my teen years. My parents, Bob and Maxine Andersen, now also deceased, were close friends of Martha and Rod for many years through their church affiliation and Lutheran High School. I remember Rod and Martha's gracious invitations to visit their beautiful farm near Pickeral Lake in Tomahawk--a veritable paradise, where my sister, Sue, & I would fish for croppies---with Pinkies for bait, of course---and hunt for turtles for hours on end, or just lie on our rafts basking in the sun by the shore. The beauty and wonder of that magical place will forever be etched in my memory. When we headed back to the log cabin, sounds of laughter from Martha and Mom rang through the rafters, and we knew the best was yet to come--a delectable meal with fresh croppies frying on the old stove. Martha's & Mom's cooking expertise couldn't be beat, and that's a fact to which many who visited that cabin would attest! And how can I forget nestling under Martha's cozy quilts in what seemed to me the most comfortable bed on earth. It was definitely akin to the log cabin on "Little House on the Prairie," where love, joy and peace reigned supreme. What I appreciated MOST about Martha was her giving, loving spirit that emanated from a heart filled with love and devotion for her Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, who profoundly impacted her own life, as well as the lives of those she ministered to--always with a bright smile and a glimmer in her eyes. I'm convinced that when Martha meets her Savior, He will say to this God-fearing woman, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Martha, I can't wait for the day when I see you in Glory and gaze upon your smiling face once more to THANK YOU for allowing me the opportunity to share a part of my life with you that I'll treasure in my heart forever. No doubt you and Mom, perhaps at this very moment, are weaving a beautiful tapestry in remembrance of your loved ones, who will join you one day soon in a paradise far greater than they'd ever imagined. I offer my heartfelt condolences to your beloved sons, Rodney and Ronald, and all your family and friends. May God grant them solace in their grief and joy in the knowledge that they will see you again, as they, too, enter the gates of Heaven, where tears and sorrow will be wiped away forever.

August 3 at 7:52 AM

LH

Leah Hinze posted:

With caring thoughts and memories of Martha's participation in Franksville Sewing Club. We all admired her beautiful quilts. Will send a memorial to Lutheran High School. With sincere sympathy, Franksville Sewing Club (Current members: Rosemary Fritchen, Cher Fritchen, Sue Fritsche, Cecelia Johnson, Leah Hinze, Bev Mann, Sally Nelson)

August 2 at 9:30 AM



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Ken Olsen posted:

I remember Aunt Martha fondly as a temperate, calming force in a wonderfully active family of my cousins Ronald, Todd and Rodney and my uncle Rod. When we'd go to their house to play she would always have a snack for us. And now that I look back, she must have had a unique skill; making sure she was never intrusive in our often too rough play, carefully permissive, setting limits with soft edges yet always there when we needed support or help. After Uncle Rod passed away she continued to be an anchor for the family and a full participant in the Olsen clan. Her gentle spirit will forever stand out as special in my heart. Ken Jr.

July 25 at 5:53 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Martha by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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