



## Laura A. Oltmann

January 5, 1911 - December 23, 2010

Laura A. Oltmann passed away December 23, 2010, at the Allison Health Care Center, her home since May of 2006. Laura was born to Henry and Mary Schrage, at her parent's home near Bristow, Iowa on January 5, 1911. She attended a one room country school through the 8th grade at which time she began working for a number of farm families helping with child care as well as household and farm chores. In February 10, 1932 she married Ed Oltmann of Allison, Iowa. The couple began farming on a rental farm in Butler County. Their successful farming efforts resulted in the opportunity to farm and subsequently manage multiple farms in the Shell Rock area for Lloyd Gibson of the Shell Rock Bank. In 1950 Ed and Laura realized the dream of purchasing their own farm on the Butler Center Road near Allison, Iowa, where they raised their four children. Laura worked beside Ed in their farming activities, taking particular interest in a hen flock of 1000 as well as 500 chickens annually to butcher for the family freezer and for sale. For additional income she worked and managed the Waverly Sale Barn restaurant during its weekly sale for seven years. In 1968, taking advantage of her sewing skills, she began a custom drapery business. She did the marketing, making and putting up the drapes in homes and businesses from Hampton to Waterloo, Iowa. Her sewing skills were also demonstrated in the brides and bridesmaid gowns she created for daughter-in-laws to be, and for her granddaughters. This business was sold in 1992. Through the years she also served as a 4-H leader and a teacher of sewing skills, which led to recognition by Butler

County, during the national 4-H 100 year celebration in 2002, for 50 years of service to 4-H clubs. Laura also enjoyed gardening, providing fresh, canned and frozen foods for her family. Eventually her efforts were focused on flower gardening. Her flower gardens were admired by passer-bys, and cuttings were often displayed at church as well as numerous weddings. She took pride especially in Giant Delphiniums, the seed coming from England. Laura also enjoyed traveling, first to the homes of her children across the United States, and also to Germany (visiting relatives) and to Japan on a national Lutheran Church sponsored event. In 1983, at age 72, she participated in a Colorado Wilderness horseback venture for four days. Laura was preceded in death by her husband Ed (11/12/1973), the result of a farm accident; by her parents, Henry and Mary Schrage; by two brothers, Alfred and Raymond; by two sisters, Ernia and Louise; and by two grandsons, Douglas (Leroy's son), Larry, (Leon's step-son); as well as a great grandson Thompson Lee Cox (Larry's grandson). Laura is survived by daughter, Mary Ann (Oltmann) Lee (Hazelett, Texas); sons, Leroy Edward Oltmann (Bristow, Iowa; and s.p. Barbara Eilers); Leon Kent Oltmann (and wife Jill of Parlin, Colorado); Larry Charles Oltmann (and wife Mary Jo of Bellingham, Washington); also a sister-in-law, Edna Schrage (wife to Raymond); along with fourteen grandkids and twenty-six great grandkids. Burial will be in the Butler Center Cemetery.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Laura A. Oltmann*

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**Bonnie Graser** - December 28, 2010 at 09:34 PM