

## Alberta Schweitzer

Alberta Mae (Dilts) Schweitzer, age 89, of Yankton, South Dakota died Sunday, March 20, 2011 at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.



Schweitzer

Funeral services are 10:30 AM, Thursday, March 24, 2011 at United Church of Christ - Congregational in Yankton with Reverend Paul Opsahl officiating. Burial will be in the Mission Hill Cemetery in Mission Hill, South Dakota. Visitation is from 4:00 to 8:00 PM, on Wednesday, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with the family present from 6:00 to 8:00 PM and a VFW Auxiliary Service and Prayer Service at 7:00 PM. Visitation resumes one hour prior to the funeral at the church.

The arc of Alberta's life spanned 89 years, 10 months and 22 days. Alberta, the second of seven daughters, was born May 26, 1921 to Albert & Emma (Jensen) Johnson in Malcolm, IA. At age seven, the family moved to Lakeport, South Dakota, to a farm 10 miles west of Yankton. Alberta started going to Lakeport School in 1928. In her eighth year of school, the family again moved and she graduated the eighth grade from Hillview School. Alberta then moved to Yankton and started doing housework and childcare for various families for approximately seven years. Alberta married Everett Dilts on April 23, 1943 in Norfolk, Nebraska. To this union two children were born, Jackie Lee and Darlene Mae "Dee". Everett preceded her in death in 1968. At this point, Alberta learned to drive. She also did sewing and alterations in her home. She worked at Gurney's Seed and Nursery, Price's Cafe, Balfany's Dairy Bar, Singer Sewing Company and finally retired in 1984 from the Human Services Center, after two years in the Laundry and eight years in the Sewing Room. Alberta married Donald "Cliff" Schweitzer in 1978 and moved to Tyndall, SD for sixteen years. Cliff preceded her in death in 1999. In 2001, Alberta moved back to Yankton, and then to Majestic Bluffs Assisted Living in 2004, where she enjoyed the company of other residents and staff. She enjoyed dancing, golfing, sewing, playing cards, bowling, playing bingo, tatting, traveling to Arizona in the winter, and having a good laugh with friends and family.

Alberta is survived by her children: Jackie (Linda) Dilts of South Daytona, FL and Darlene "Dee" (Keith) Williams of Mission Hill, SD; all three of her grandchildren: Dawn (Rick) Sawtell of Mission Hill, Christopher (Veronica) Dilts of Tucson, AZ and Ryan (Jennifer) Williams of Mission Hill; six great-grandchildren: Alysia Dilts, Samantha, Ellison, and Kinsley Williams, Dalton and Nathan Sawtell; and four step great-grandsons: Erik, Shaun, Christopher and Brandon Sawtell; three sisters: Iona Andre of Viborg, SD, Betty Davis of Newman, CA and Mona Otteman of Omaha, NE; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; both husbands; and three sisters: Carolyn Clabaugh, Dorothy Johnson, and Virginia Sazama.

Memorials may be directed to The Center or the UCC Building Fund.

To send an online sympathy message, please visit [wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
March 23, 2011



Online condolences at:  
[www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)

**For More Obituaries,  
See Page 2**

## Violet Thiesse

PARKSTON — Funeral services for Violet V. Thiesse of Parkston and formerly of Tripp will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 24 at the Olivet United Methodist Church, with Pastor Tom Petersen officiating. Pianist is Twyla Hora. Interment will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday in Gracehill Cemetery, Tripp.

Honorary casketbearers are all of Violet's grandchildren and active casketbearers are Gary Gall, Charles Mogck, Dean Mogck, Frank Pravecek, Terry Roth and Lance Thury.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., with a 7:00 p.m. prayer service, at the Goglin Funeral Home in Scotland.

Online condolences may be sent at [www.goglinfh.com](http://www.goglinfh.com).

Violet Velda Thiesse was born Wednesday, April 24, 1929 on the family farm near Tripp, South Dakota to Henry and Rose (Stoebner) Mehlhaff. She graduated from Parkston High School and earned her teaching degree from Sioux Falls College in 1951. She was united in marriage to Laverle Thiesse and they farmed near Tripp. Over the years, Violet taught school at Ellsworth, Minnesota and in Scotland for many years. She enjoyed music and was choir director at the Olivet Methodist Church for many years and directed the "Miracles of Jesus" pageant. After their retirement, Laverle and Violet made their home in Tripp. In her later years, Violet moved to Parkston. She enjoyed traveling and sightseeing. She passed away on Sunday, March 20, 2011 at the Firesteel Healthcare Center in Mitchell, having attained the age of 81 years, 10 months, and 27 days.

Grateful to have shared Violet's



Violet Thiesse

life are her three children: Sally (Dennis) Boehmer of Sioux City, Iowa, Todd (Christa) Thiesse of Tripp, and Blake (Erin) Thiesse of Chicago, Illinois; eight grandchildren: Shawn, Matthew, Christopher and Alicia Boehmer, Philip and Rebecca Thiesse, and Sierra and Ryan Thiesse; and a sister, Laverna Mehlhaff of Chicago, Illinois.

In addition to her parents, Henry and Rose Mehlhaff, she was preceded in death by her husband, Laverle Thiesse, a grandson, Garrett Thiesse, and two brothers, Edward Mehlhaff and Donald Mehlhaff.

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
March 23, 2011

**Goglin  
Funeral Home**

Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp



[www.goglinfh.com](http://www.goglinfh.com)

## Bob Christopherson

HURLEY — Rexwell "Bob" Christopherson, 92 died Sunday, March 20, 2011 at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home, Viborg.

Funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 24, 2011 at the Hurley United Methodist Church with burial in the Hurley Cemetery.

Visitation will begin at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday at the Hofmeister-Jones Funeral Chapel, Hurley with family present from 6-8:00 p.m.

Memorials may be directed to the Pioneer Memorial Foundation or the Hurley United Methodist Church.

Rexwell Paul Christopherson was born on July 4, 1918 on the home place near Hurley, SD to Martin and Anna (Christensen) Christopherson. After growing up in Turner County and attending country school he was united in marriage to Florence Christensen on March 4, 1949 at the Methodist Parsonage in Hurley. They farmed near Hurley and moved back to his parent's home place in 1952 where they farmed for over 50 years, moving into Viborg in 2008. The joy of his life was his family and doing chores, he loved feeding cattle and sheep. He was an active member of the United Methodist Church where he served as an usher for over 50 years and served on the Hurley Elevator Board.

Grateful for having shared his life are his 3 children, Ray (Shelly) Christopherson, Hurley, Gloria (Ray) Hardin, Rapid City, and Joyce (Carroll) Torbersen, Mitchell; 18 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren; and 2 sisters, Helen Benson, Viborg and Donna Beeninga, Sioux Falls. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Florence, and a sister Virginia.

[www.hofmeisterjones.com](http://www.hofmeisterjones.com)

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
March 23, 2011

## Douglas Richardson

VERMILLION — Douglas Stuart Richardson, 32, of Vermillion, SD died Sunday, March 20, 2011 as the result of an automobile accident near Vermillion.

Douglas was born November 5th, 1978 in Akron, Iowa to Allan and Sue (Petersen) Richardson. He graduated from Vermillion High School in 1997. Doug was currently employed by the Ford Garage.

Doug had a love for racing & working on cars in the garage with his Dad. His pride and joy was his pickup.



Christopherson

Dougie "Snoop" was always willing to lend a helping hand. He liked to call and chat with friends and family often. He enjoyed spending time with his nieces and nephews.

He is survived by his parents Al and Sue, two brothers, Mike and wife Amy, Bob and fiancé Erin, one sister Tabatha and husband Nate, special friend Janna Kroupa & her children Kayden & Jarrett, grandparents, Doug & Millie Brown, 7 nieces & nephews; Jordan, McKenzie, Jordan, Ashton, Dain, Greyson & Isabell, also many aunts, uncles, cousins & friends he loved.

He was preceded in death by his grandma Dorothy Richardson & Bob Stuart, grandpa Melvin Richardson, grandpa James Petersen, uncle Mike Johnson & his great-grandparents.

Funeral services will be 10:00 am Thursday, March 24, 2011 at First Baptist Church in Vermillion, SD. Burial will follow in Bluffview Cemetery, Vermillion.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7pm with a prayer service beginning at 7:00pm Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at the Church.

For obituary and online condolences visit [hansenfuneralhome.com](http://hansenfuneralhome.com)

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
March 23, 2011

## Ann Christensen

HURLEY — Ann Christensen, 76 (July 14, 1934 — March 21, 2011) left this world for Christ's kingdom on March 21, 2011.

Her burial service will be at 2 p.m. Friday, March 25, 2011, at Zion Lutheran Church in Hurley, South Dakota, with interment following.

Visitation begins at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 24, with a 7 p.m. prayer service at the Hofmeister-Jones Funeral Chapel in Hurley.

Annabell Frieda Christensen was born July 14, 1934 to William and Hilda Brehmer of Bellingham, Minn. Baptized on July 29 of the same year, she was confirmed 14 years later on June 22, 1947. Captain of the Bellingham High School Bearcats cheerleading squad, Ann was also valedictorian of her graduating class of 1952.

Following high school, she began teaching at Grant Center #6, a one-room schoolhouse outside of Milbank, S.D. Over the next two summers, she attended Northern State Teachers College in Aberdeen and earned her teacher's certificate in 1954.

She married Keith Wayne Christensen of Revillo, S.D. on June



Christensen

## Dorthea Swift

ATEN, Neb. — Dorthea "Tia" Lydia Swift, age 63, of Aten, Nebraska, died Monday, March 21, 2011 at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

A Celebration of Life Gathering will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at The Center (900 Whiting Drive) in Yankton with Chaplain Tweeter Henseler officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton.

Dorthea was born in Yankton, South Dakota on November 7, 1947. She graduated from Crofton High School in 1965 and attended Yankton College and The University of Iowa. Throughout high school and college, she participated in numerous beauty pageants and was crowned "Miss Crofton" in 1965. In 1966 she was selected as Yankton College's "Miss Greyhound" in a contest judged by Hugh Hefner. At YC she also participated in drama and journalism and made many lifelong friends during that time. In 1968, she completed a program in orthoptical nursing at the University of Iowa. She worked throughout Minnesota in that field before returning to Crofton to be closer to family a few years after the birth of her daughter, Camille. She married John Post in December of 1982 and gave birth to their son, Marcus, the following year. In 1984, she attended Yankton College again, earning a degree as an educator. She taught English and was a substitute teacher at various schools around Northeast Nebraska during the 1980's, includ-

ing Santee and Crofton.

Throughout the 80's and 90's, she spent time as a journalist for the Crofton Journal. She also wrote stories that were featured in the Yankton Press and Dakotan, the Sioux City Journal and the Omaha World Herald. Many of her articles were picked up by the Associated Press. During that time, she also drove school bus for the Crofton School District. In later years, she worked at the Dam Bait Shop alongside her beloved Missouri River and at the Yankton Senior Citizens Center where she was much adored.

Dorthea had a free spirit and a strong will. She went on a variety of adventures throughout her life, including working on a shrimp boat in the Gulf Coast, serving as a replacement teacher during the 1968 Florida teachers strike and traveling around the country. She was an incredible storyteller because she had so many stories to tell!

Her proudest accomplishments and the loves of her life were her two children. She was incredibly proud of them and was a constant, ever supportive presence in their lives. She enjoyed taking long rides in the countryside, collecting dice, reading, painting, gardening and writing. She loved animals of all kinds and cared deeply for her pets. Even towards the end of her life, she maintained a child-like appreciation for nature and the beautiful world that surrounded her.



Swift



She is survived by her daughter, Camille Swift-Slowey and her son-in-law, Patrick Slowey of Yankton, SD; her son, Marcus Swift of Portland, OR; her very best friend, Joe Foxhoven of

Crofton, NE and his children and grandchildren; her sister, Donna (Swift) Holstine and brother-in-law, John Holstine of Fairmont, MN; and her brother, Don D. Swift II and sister-in-law, Anne (Krause) Swift of Yankton, SD. She is also survived by her granddaughter, Kelsey Slowey of Vermillion, SD, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father, Don D. Swift in 1982 and mother, Dorothy (Groman) Swift in 1986. She was loved by many and will be dearly missed.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests that donations be made in her name to The Center or Heartland Humane Society, PO Box 585, Yankton, SD 57078

To post an online message to the family, please visit [wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
March 23, 2011



Online condolences at:  
[www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)

ous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, and brother, Ralph Brehmer of Revillo, S.D.

Condolences may be sent to the family via <http://www.hofmeisterjones.com>.

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
March 23, 2011

## Orville Olson

Orville P. Olson, 94 of Yankton, SD and formerly of Volin, SD died March 20, 2011 at Autumn Winds Assisted Living Center in Yankton.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m. Friday, March 25, 2011 at Trondhjem Lutheran Church, rural Volin, SD. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Visitation will begin one hour prior to the funeral service at the church.

Orville Palmer Olson was born October 14, 1916 to Ole G. and Polly Olson on the family farm near Volin. He was baptized and confirmed at Trondhjem Lutheran Church, and was a lifelong member at that church. He received his education

at McFarland School near the Olson farm for 8 years. He was inducted into the U. S. Army in February, 1942, and served in Hawaii and the Southwest Pacific as a member of the Army Signal Corps Motor Pool. He received an honorable discharge in October, 1945. He returned to his family home and resided there with his mother until her death in 1957. He assisted on the family farm and also was hired by neighboring farmers to do seasonal farm work. In 1994 he moved to Yankton and lived at Rest Haven Apartments and later at Autumn Winds.

He was preceded in death by his parents, infant brother Herman, brother, Howard J. Olson, and sister Anna Gustad.

He is survived by nephews, Ordell Gustad, Volin, SD, Merton Gustad, New Ulm, MN, Howard J. Olson, Temecula, CA, John Olson, Surprise, AZ, Charles Olson, Grand Island, NE, Philip Olson, Aurora, CO, Kevin Olson, Puyallup, WA, and niece, Beverly Erickson, Minneapolis, MN.

**Yankton Press & Dakotan**  
March 23, 2011

## IN REMEMBRANCE

**Lawrence H.  
"Mac" Reifenrath**

10:30 AM, Wednesday  
St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church  
Crofton

**Miles Sudbeck**

10:30 AM, Wednesday  
Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
Hartington

**Sister Bennett**

**Fasbender OSB**  
11:00 AM, Wednesday  
Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel  
Yankton

**Florence I. Kaiser**

10:30 AM, Thursday  
St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church  
Crofton

**Alberta Schweitzer**

10:30 AM, Thursday  
United Church of Christ -  
Congregational  
Yankton

**Dorthea L. "Tia" Swift**

11:00 AM, Saturday  
The Center  
Yankton



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