

Obituary

Lueta VanOrden Larsen, 82



Lueta VanOrden Larsen, 82, of Idaho Falls, passed away Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls, Idaho, from causes related to old age.

She was born January 2, 1927 at Thomas, Idaho, to Artie Knight Van Orden and Edith Irene Felsted VanOrden. Lueta grew up on her parents farm with six sisters and one brother. No one could pick potatoes faster than Lueta. She attended school in Thomas, graduating as valedictorian from Thomas High School. Following graduation she attended Ricks College.

On September 4, 1946 she married John Taylor Larsen, Jr., in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple. John was an economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and they lived in Maryland from 1957 to 1975. They spent the next 15 years in Africa, where John worked as a livestock specialist in Nairobi, Kenya and Gaborone, Botswana. They returned to the states in 1989, living in Carlsbad, CA. In June of 2000 they moved to Idaho Falls, ID, where they have resided since.

Lueta was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She served faithfully throughout her life in the callings she received. She was an avid scriptionist and made scripture study a lifetime habit. She was a woman of great faith and had a firm unshakeable testimony.

Lueta enjoyed her work, whatever it was, as well as her free time. She was never afraid to speak her mind and tell you how she felt. As an accomplished musician, she sang in numerous church and community choirs, taught music, and led choirs in both church and school. While living in Africa, Lueta was employed as a choir director by the International School of Kenya. She also organized a successful barbershop quartet. Along with her love of music came the love of dance, her favorite being the big band era.

During the years in Africa she furthered her skills as a wonderful hostess and gourmet cook. She loved sharing both of these talents with family and friends.

Lueta is survived by her son, John Mark (Yan Tang) Larsen of Idaho Falls, ID; daughter, Janice Kaye (Blaine) Clayton of Sandy, UT; brother, Alan VanOrden of Pocatello, ID; sisters, Edith Satterfield of Blackfoot, ID, Ethel Clark of Pocatello, ID, LaJean Johnson of Silver Spring, MD, Kaye Bowman of Brigham City, UT; eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John on November 3, 2001; her oldest son, Jay, her parents and two sisters, Ada and Eilene.

A funeral service will be held at 12:00 Noon, Monday, March 2, 2009 at the Boulevard LDS Ward, 351 W. 14th Street, Idaho Falls, ID, with Bishop Neal Russell conducting. The family will meet with family and friends from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the church prior to service.

Interment will be at 3:30 p.m. in the Groveland Cemetery.

Services are under the direction of Hawker Funeral Home of Blackfoot.