

## Obituary

### Vera Clark Oram, 90



Vera Clark Oram was born October 5, 1920 to George H. and Louise Parker Clark in Blackfoot, Idaho. She was delivered at home by her Grandmother Clark. Her grandmother had also delivered her five sisters and one brother before her, and the two more sisters that were to come later. When she was four years old the family moved to the last house on West Center Street and that is where she and her brother and eight sisters grew up.

Mom learned to work at an early age on the farm, thinning, hoeing and loading beets; tromping the hay and herding and milking the cows. The children also had time to play with their many cousins on what was then called Clark Street, because her grandmother Clark and six of her uncle's lived there. The children all got together at night after working during the day and played games under the street light. We had a good life there, although money was scarce.

Vera started school just before her sixth birthday. Mom loved school and worked hard to get good grades. When she was in high school she was chosen to be in a special class where advanced bookkeeping was taught. She enjoyed that very much. Mom graduated from Blackfoot High School in 1938. Following high school she worked as a bookkeeper for Blackfoot Potato Growers.

During the time she worked, mom met Ellis Oram. They were married on June 25, 1939. They had five children: Lorna (Bob) Van Horn, Kay (Dean) Stump, Richard (Sharon), Marti (Wayne) Johnson and Kent (Dawnette). She was happy to be able to be a stay at home mom until all of her children were in school. Mom then went to work for the Blackfoot School District as the first elementary school secretary the district had. She worked at Stalker and Stoddard Elementary Schools. Two of the largest schools in the district. She loved working with the children and although she intended to just work for two years, it was many years later when she retired.

Mom was always active in her church, holding many positions, beginning at the age of 17. Mom has held positions in every organization in the church, but was very proud to have been a visiting teacher for more than 65 years. Dad and mom served two missions on temple square. She was a secretary to the Temple Square President on both missions. They both loved working with the sister missionaries on Temple Square. Many of the sisters still stay in contact with Mother.

Mother had many talents, but one she enjoyed the most was being able to play the piano "by ear". She would often sit at the piano and play for dad his favorite songs, *Danny Boy* and *Mighty Like a Rose*. They both enjoyed that time together, especially as they grew older and not able to get out as much. Just last Saturday afternoon she played the piano for the family Christmas party. Mom was also a talented quilter and made quilts for all of her daughters and granddaughters. She was also affectionately called the "cookie lady" by most of her neighborhood children.

Mother is survived by her five children and their spouses, 22 grandchildren, 47 great grandchildren and 20 great great grandchildren. One sister, Edith (Rex) Christensen and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death in January 2010 by her husband of 70 years, Ellis Oram. Her parents, George and Louise Clark; six sisters, Hulda Nichols, Leah Nichols, Fern McClellan, Daveen Dye, Phyliss Poulson, Ora Hardy; brothers, Howard and Reed; and one great granddaughter and two great grandsons.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, December 27, 2010 at the Blackfoot South LDS Stake Center. Family will meet with friends and relatives from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 26, 2010 at Hawker Funeral Home, 132 South Shilling Avenue in Blackfoot and for one hour prior to services at the church. Interment will follow at the Grove City Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to the family at [condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com](mailto:condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com).