



Ruth O'Connor

April 21, 1917 - March 29, 2015

Yreka resident, Ruth Idelia O'Connor, passed away on March 29, 2015, in Ashland after an unexpected illness; she was less than a month away from her 98th birthday.

Ruth was born on April 21, 1917 in Fargo, North Dakota, daughter to Thomas and Leona Kelley, and sibling to 10. Ruth and her family moved to Wisconsin when she was a young teenager, where they ran a farm until 1948. Ruth would often recall her days on the family farm raising her chickens. It was in her chicken's eggs that Ruth would make her money as a teen. Along with the chickens, they also had dairy cows, and huge gardens. They were truly organic gardeners before the term had even been coined.

Ruth also resided in Oregon, and most lately in Yuma, Arizona, before coming to Siskiyou County in 1990. Ruth kept herself busy by working as a baker and in the kitchens for Nature's Kitchen and The Purple Plum in Yreka. Outside of her work, she thoroughly enjoyed gardening and anything to do with yard work. She had a green thumb and a knack for canning any vegetables and fruits that came out of her garden. Ruth also enjoyed entertaining, playing pinochle at the Senior Center several days per week, and travelling with the Senior Venture Group from Yreka.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, David O'Connor, her daughter,

Joanne Russo, and her 10 siblings. Ruth is survived by her children, Jeanne (Gary) Brinkman of Yreka, and Jerry (Sherry) O'Connor of Texas; her grandchild, Mary (Jeff) Coates of Elko, Nevada; and her great-grandchildren, Colby and Bryce.

It was Ruth's wish for no services to be held.

Tribute Wall

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“ *Seeing his son Jerry's deep love for Ruth, I can imagine what a special lady she was. Reading of her life made one feel like it would have been a privilege to know Ruth personally. Condolences to the entire family; may your memories of her life well-lived bring you comfort in these days of sorrow. --Sherry Fanning*

Sherry Fanning - April 10, 2015 at 11:07 AM