

Hilda Gjere



Hilda was the second child born to Mari and Anton Klatt, immigrants from Norway, on October 21, 1905 at Sylvanna, WA. Her oldest brother, Halvor, was born in Norway; however, Arndt

(who died shortly after birth) and Odin were also born in the state of Washington.

So they could be closer to Mari's mother and other relatives who had settled in Western Minnesota, Anton, a cobbler by trade, moved his family to Sioux Falls, SD, after Mari became sick with tuberculosis. Anton operated his own shoe shop in Sioux Falls, which was located on North Main Street. By the time Hilda was 12 years old, both parents had passed away; and her brother Halvor, had been accidentally shot and killed by some of his young friends. Hilda and Odin were raised by their maternal grandmother and other friends of the family.

Hilda and Art Gjere met at Beaver Creek, MN and were married at Flandreau, SD on October 27, 1923. Together they raised five children during the difficult pre and post depression years: (oldest to youngest) Kathryn, Glenn, Helen, Mary, and Gil.

To study their Viking heritage, Hilda and Art took a three

month long trip to Norway in May of 1952 to visit relatives and ancestral sites.

Hilda and Art moved to Milwaukee, WI while Gil was attending college; eventually moving back to Sioux Falls in 1959.

After having vacationed in northern Wisconsin during the summer of 1964, Hilda and Art fell in love with the Northwoods, and eventually bought their summer home in Three Lakes in 1968. By April of 1972, Art and Hilda decided to rent their home in Sioux Falls and live at the summer place in Three Lakes during the warmer parts of the year, and then winter with Gil in the Milwaukee area. About a month after they moved their belongings to Three Lakes, Art passed away on May 20, 1972. Since his passing, Gil and Hilda enjoyed the warmer months at Three Lakes and continued to spend the winter months in the Milwaukee area. After Gil retired in 1991, he and Helen decided to share caregiver responsibilities and the three of

them lived in Helen's residence until September of 2000 when Helen's house was purchased, along with many surrounding properties, to make room for a new park. Since they had to move anyway, they packed up and moved back to South Dakota.

Hilda was a member of several fraternal organizations when she lived in South Dakota including Sons of Norway; Women of the Moose; Degree of Honor Protective Association; and the Grandmother's Club. Prior to 1954 she was a member of East Side Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, and was a member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls prior to moving to Wisconsin.

Hilda passed away on Sunday March 3, 2002 at Viborg, SD. Funeral Services were held Wednesday, March 6, 2002 at the George Boom Funeral Home, Sioux Falls with Rev. Mindy Ehrke officiating. Marvin Gardner was the organist and Darrell Christensen was the vocalist. Interment was at the Hills of Rest Memorial Park, Sioux Falls.

Survivors include two sons, Glenn and Gil; two daughters, Helen Glish and Mary Rist; 13 grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren; seven great-great grandchildren; four nieces of Odin: (Nadine Rang, Marlene Rollinger, Charlotte Clark, and Helen Kay Langdon); many cousins and long time friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Arndt, Halvor, and Odin Klatt; husband, Arthur T. Gjere (1972); and her oldest daughter Kathryn (1986).

Memorials may be directed to the Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home or Bethany Lutheran Church, both of Viborg, SD, or Faith Lutheran Church in Three Lakes, WI.