

Nora Gast and William Finnestad

Nora Evelyn Gast was born January 15, 1908 the daughter of August Jr. and Bertha Knitter Gast in Marshall County, Minnesota.

Nora attended Fairview School at Ellerth and lived most of her life in the Newfolden and Warren areas. Nora married William Finnestad in 1946. They were later divorced and Nora returned to using Gast as her last name. Nora and William had no children. Nora lived in Warren, Minnesota following her divorce. In June 1988 she entered the Good Samaritan Center in Warren. Nora had heart problems as she grew older and had a pacemaker installed. Nora died September 9, 1989 at Northwest Medical Center in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. The cause of death listed on her death certificate was congestive heart failure, ischemic heart disease. She is buried in Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery, Marsh Grove township.

Les Bakke remembers receiving a special present from Bill Finnestad. Les loved to read and was always trading for books, checking books out of the school library and getting books from anywhere he could. Bill knew this. One day when Bill and Nora came to visit the Bakkes, he brought a large box of paperback books. Les quickly opened the box and looked at the books on top. They were all Westerns. As he dug a bit deeper in the box, the titles changed. Les quickly closed the box and took them upstairs to get a better look at the titles. Bill had placed some detective and adventure novels in the bottom the box. Needless to say, Les enjoyed reading those more than the Westerns. Another time when Les and his bother Larry were visiting the Finnestads, they found a bottle of beer in the garage. Of course they had to open it and try it. It tasted terrible. Perhaps being in the garage in the middle of a hot summer day had something to do with the bad taste.