

## **Avis Bakke Mattson**

Johnson Funeral Service Obituary

Avis Mattson 78, died on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at MeritCare Northwest Camus, Thief River Falls, MN

Funeral service will be held at 3:00 PM Sunday, March 2, 2008 at Evangelical Free Church in Newfolden, MN with Pastor Gary Barrett officiating. Burial will follow at Folden Cemetery

Visitation will be held from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM with a 7:00 PM prayer service on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at Johnson Funeral Service in Thief River Falls, MN. Visitation will also be held for one hour prior to the funeral at the church on Sunday.

Avis Gladys Bakke was born on January 11, 1930 in Marsh Grove Township, Marshall County, MN the daughter of Adolph and Alice (Gast) Bakke. She was baptized and confirmed at the Bethesda Church. She grew up and attended Sunnyside School.

She was married to Harold W. Johnson and they lived in Marsh Grove Township. To this union two children were born, Helen and David.

On March 21, 1951 Avis was united in marriage to Melvin J. Mattson. To this union four children were born, Bev, Marti, Marlin and Vonnie. They lived a short time in South Dakota and then returned to Thief River Falls. They eventually made their home in Newfolden.

Avis was a member of the Evangelical Free Church and enjoyed serving with the ladies aide in Newfolden, MN. She was also a member of the VFW Auxiliary in Thief River Falls. She volunteered many years for Modern Woodman and the New Maine 4-H Club. Avis could be found spending many hours in her flower and vegetable gardens. During her lifetime she made many quilts, embroidery items, and homemade rugs. Many people learned of her talent of rug weaving at the Marshall County Historical Society in Warren, MN.

Avis created many floats for local parades which included participation by her children and grandchildren. Many meals and Scandinavian treats were served by Avis. Avis continued to live in her Newfolden home for two years with the compassionate care of her personal care attendants.

Avis is survived by six children: Helen (Richard) Flodstrom, Swift Falls, MN, David Johnson, Thief River Falls, MN, Bev Johnson, Crookston, MN, Marti (Rod) Benson, Benson, MN, Marlin (Sue) Mattson, Newfolden, MN and LaVonne (Roger) Schmitz, Newfolden, MN; 5 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren; brothers and sister, Robert (MaryAnn) Bakke, Thief River Falls, Arlene Nes, Middle River, MN and Les (Rose) Bakke, Moorhead MN; she is also survived by many other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husbands, Harold on October 7, 1948 and Melvin on February 12, 2005; brothers, Arvin Pet and Larry; and son-in-law Randy Johnson.

ORGANIST: Beverly Lindstrom

SPECIAL MUSIC: Lois Peterson and Lois Anderson

SELECTIONS: in The Garden, Take My Hand

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS: Amazing Grace & How Great thou Art

CASKETBEARERS: Rick Johnson, ryan Schmitz, Aaron Benson, Matthew matt Mattson, Christopher Chris Moehring and all of Avis' grandchildren.

HONORARY CASKETBEARERS: Avis' Personal Care Attendants: Bev Johnson, Marti Benson, Elaine Miller, Shirley Sannes, Nicole Kaml, Ellen Latta, Arlette DeFreece, Connie Klovstac.

### **Les Bakke Remembers Avis Mattson**

I don't have many memories of Avis early in my life because she moved into Newfolden with her first husband when I was about three years old. Avis and Harold's first child, Helen was born on 3 April, 1947 and my younger brother Larry was born on 13 March, 1947. My childhood memory of Avis was that of a pregnant woman, who came to visit often. I don't know how Avis and Harold met but Harold's family farm was on the northwest quarter of our section and ours was on the southeast quarter. The romantic in me wants to believe they met



in the woods where the farms touched. I don't remember Harold at all. Later research showed that he was in WWII, was wounded and died of those wounds on 12 October 1948 after their son David was born. I vaguely remember a funeral about that time, but am not sure it was his. Avis later met and married Melvin Mattson and they had four children, Bev, Marti, Marlin and Vonnie. You may want to check the story My Favorite Niece. The photo at the left is of Avis and Melvin's wedding.

I wasn't as close to my sister Avis as many brothers and sisters were, probably because she was so much older than I. Both Larry and I remember driving with our mother and Avis along a country road, stopping, crossing a fence and planting flowers. I later learned that my dad's uncle was buried there, in the pasture. After graduating and a year of college, I spent four years in the Air Force and then moved to Moorhead, MN. Each of us had our own lives and saw each other at family gathers. I'm not sure she approved of my lifestyle after the military. I'll leave it at that!



The photo at left is a copy of a 1955 Christmas card which I still have. It is of Avis and Melvin's children, Helen, Dave, Bev, Marti and Marlin before Vonnie was born.

Since Helen and Dave were about the same age as Larry and I was, we did spend a lot of time together. Here is a photo of Larry, Helen and me taken on the Adolph Bakke farm. The second photo is

of Larry, Dave and me by the house of my youth.

