



## Helen Mattson

April 27, 1919 - March 9, 2011

Helen Johanna Mattson, 91, of Felch, died peacefully on Wednesday, March 9, 2011.

She was born April 27, 1919, in Felch, daughter of the late Jonas and Emma (Dixon) Sundholm. Helen was a lifelong resident of Felch and married Walfred "Bally" Mattson. Together, they raised their eleven children. Helen and Bally graduated together from North Dickinson High School along with their youngest son, Randy, in 1976. To celebrate their graduation, the couple took a trip to Washington State. Bally preceded her in death in 1977.

Helen was a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church and was very active in the LCW and the prayer chain. She was very devoted to her family and her faith. Helen was a wonderful homemaker and caregiver. You could always count on Helen to be there in times of need for anyone who needed help. Her family and friends were her life. She loved attending all of the sports events of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In 1987, Helen had nine grandsons on the North Dickinson High School football team. Helen traveled to Sweden and Finland to visit many cousins over there. She and her sisters had also taken a memorable trip to Vancouver, Canada. Helen was famous for her rye bread and many loaves had been consumed by her family and friends.

Helen is survived by nine children, Karen (Dick) Lindholm of Felch, Ruth "Tana" (Ron) Nord of Felch, Robert (Kathy) Mattson of Felch, Emmy Lou (Doug) Harder of Felch, Curtis (Percie) Mattson of Kingsford, Donald (Tricia) Mattson of Felch, Anita (Red) Johnson of Felch, Deena (Gary) Lindeman of Breitung Township, and Randy Mattson of Felch; two daughter in-laws, Carol (Art) Mattson of N. Fort Meyers, Fla. and Diane (Richard) Mattson of Iron Mountain; two sisters, Pauline Murray of Helps and Beverly Ovist of Felch; two sisters-in-law, Ethel Mattson and Deeny Leonard, both of Kingsford; 36 grandchildren; 69 great-grandchildren; one great great-granddaughter; many cousins, friends and 26 exchange grandchildren from all over the world who called her "grandma."

She was preceded in death by two sons, Butch and Ricky Mattson, four grandchildren, Rusty, Roxanne, Rory and Ross Nord, three great-grandchildren, Calvin Lindholm, Alayna Mattson, and Gabrielle Robinot-Bertrand, five siblings, LaVerne Balzarini, Arlington Sundholm, Esther Moroni Paquette, Sigfred Sundholm, Jane Monterosso, and Jennie Budek Nelson.

Visitation will be held on Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain, and from 12 noon to 1 p.m. on Monday at the Zion Lutheran Church in Metropolitan.

The funeral service will follow at 1 p.m. at the church. Rev. David Anderson and Rev. Jay Dahlvang will officiate.

A luncheon will follow the services at the Felch Community Center.

Burial will be in the Felch Cemetery in the spring.

The eldest grandson from each family will serve as pallbearers.

Condolences to the family of Helen Mattson can be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com).

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home with the funeral arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 13. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home  
901 Carpenter Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

## Visitation

MAR 14. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church  
W4703 Metropolitan Rd.  
Felch, MI 49831

## Funeral Service

MAR 14. 1:00 PM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church  
W4703 Metropolitan Rd.  
Felch, MI 49831

# Tribute Wall

DF

“ To the Mattson family..I and my family would like to share with you our sorrow and sympathy for the loss of your mom. She was a wonderful woman and will be missed. your friend, Donna

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**Donna Opsahl (Pirlot) - Green Bay, WI - family friend** - March 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ To the entire family of Helen you have my sympathies on the loss of a wonderful lady. Warm and kind always smiling.

*I remember going to six mile lake with the Nords in my youth to the cottage and there was always room for one more, no problem.*

*Our community shares in your loss and will miss this wonderful person.*

*I remember when my parents first opened their restaraunt and Helen and Bally coming there and him giving me the name Plutamaya and Helen certain when teasing him that he could talk just as much as me....haha...I think she was right.*

*May God send you a special sign so that you all know she is looking down and smiling.*

*Love to you all...Mary R. Oman*

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**Mary Oman - iron mountain, MI - Family friend for a lifetime-** - March 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ To my cousin Helen, May God bless your soul and take you into his Kingdom.

*-Eleanor Lantz-Lamont and Family*

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**Eleanor Lantz-Lamont - cousin** - March 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

“ To the family of Helen J. Mattson,

*As I look at this beautiful picture of Helen that was chosen especially for this time, I can imagine how much you must all miss her already. I don't think I remember her ever without a smile. She was warm and friendly and accepting of everyone. Today as you went about the day, paying tribute to her memory, I am sure that each and every one of you were aware of the fact that the "gift" to each of you is the fact that you were blessed with Helen as your Mother, Grandmother, Great-grandmother, Sister, Auntie, friend and so on. For each of you to have a woman of this caliber to raise you up and to love you and show you "the way" is the Ultimate Blessing.*

*Well over 30 years ago, I was reading a book and came across a poem that I thought perfectly suited how I felt about my mother. I took the poem and worked it into a framed picture of my mother and gave it to her as a Mothers day gift. Years later, I had our son read it at her funeral. Now, as I read it again, I can honestly say that these beautiful words could also describe Helen as well as many other wonderful mothers in the area where we all grew up.*

*I will print it for you to read, and I am sure you will agree, it paints an accurate picture of many of the mothers of that generation in the area of our youth. I encourage you to visualize your mother as you read the poem.*

*It is titled.....*

*"These Special Gifts"*

*She could not give her children gold,  
so she gave them faith to have and hold.  
She could not give them royal birth..  
a name renowned throughout the earth.  
But she gave them seeds and a garden spot,  
and shade trees when the sun was hot.  
She could not give a silver spoon*

*or servants waiting night and noon.  
She gave them love and a listening ear  
and told them God was always near.  
She could not give them ocean trips  
aboard majestic sailing ships.  
But she gave them books and a quiet time,  
adventures found in prose and rhyme.  
She could not give them worldly things,  
but what she gave was fit for Kings.  
For with her faith and books and sod  
she made each child aware of God.  
(Alice leedy Mason)*

*This then is the gift....she came from God, made you aware of God,  
and now has returned to God.  
God bless you all as you adapt to life on earth without her.  
Someday we will all be reunited with our Mothers, and yours is  
surely going to have her usual smile upon her face as she reaches  
out to take you in.  
Love, Juanita Lantz Bussmann*

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**juanita lantz bussmann - Cousin** - March 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ *She was a Great Lady*

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**SANDY & DAVID ZEEB - Kingsford, MI** - March 14, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ This Summer will be our 30th Summer spent in Felch and it will be the first without Helen.....How we will miss her smiling face. Our deepest Sympathy goes out to all of the Mattson Family and we wish we could be there to share in the Remembrance of her Life. She touched so many Lives in so many ways that her Legacy will live on forever. God Bless you all as you remember how she touched each and everyone of us.

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**Darrell and Danette Hagman - Felch, MI - Distant Cousin** - March 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ "Grandma Mumu" as she was known to so many was truly a fixture in our little community. She was the definition of "sweetheart" as she always had a hug and a smile waiting. I always looked forward to any Mattson event where her rye bread would be shared, and often ate more than my fair share. Her life is a great reminder of how we should all try to live, putting faith and family first. Thinking of ALL of her family as you learn how to carry on her love and laughter as you all know how to do so well.  
Sending Love-Aimee

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**Aimee (Beauchamp) Recla** - March 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ I spent most of the summer of my youth in Michigan, Auntie was a huge part of that. She always made my sisters and I feel special. I will miss her. My thought and prayers are with all my Mattson cousins and the rest of the Sundholm extended family as well. May we all remember the joy that she brought to our lives. She was loved and will be greatly missed.

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**Jill Pribilski - great niece** - March 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PN

“ To all my Mattson cousins, my condolences on the loss of our Mom. I say our because she was like a Mother to us when our Mom died. I will miss her. Love to all. Paul

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**paul moroni - bark river , MI - nephew** - March 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I met Helen a number of times long ago (1956 and 1957). She was a sweetheart! The family has my deepest sympathy.

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**Mary Ann (Roberg) Reed - Friend** - March 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to each and everyone of you. Grandma Helen always had a smile and a hug for us. She was a beautiful lady, in every sense of the word. She was loved and admired by so many people. We are so blessed to have known her. Her legacy lives on in everyone of you. God Bless you all and you are in our thoughts and prayers. The angels were singing the day Grandma went home. Love Pat and Deb

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**Pat and Debby Sullivan** - March 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ We will so greatly miss Helen, as she was such a truly wonderful and warm woman who has left a great legacy. She will be so missed. We are just sorry we can't share our condolences at her wake and funeral. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Felch will not be the same without her.

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**Merle and Michelle Gustafson - Tucson, AZ - friends** - March 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Auntie Helen was the matriarch of the family. Everyone depended on her, and she was there for everyone. She remembered everyone's birthday and made each person feel special and valued. I have never forgotten how warmly Auntie Helen welcomed me into the family right from the beginning. She took our three children into her heart as they came along, and they have wonderful memories of Auntie Helen and her family from our summers spent on the farm. Her passing is such a sad milestone, and she will be greatly missed by all of us. It's hard to imagine a world without Auntie Helen in it. Our thoughts are with her family at this difficult time.

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**Janet Balzarini - Vancouver - nephew's wife** - March 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family Randy.

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**Elise Neuens - Randy's friend** - March 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ My heart goes out to everyone of you as I know what a wonderful person Helen was. I will miss her calls. She was always so good to our family.  
She will never be forgotten.  
Love Suzie (hummel) Kelly

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**SUZIE (HUMMEL) KELLY - DEAR FRIEND** - March 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Jamie, Vicki & Family,  
My deepest sympathy on your loss of Helen. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very difficult time. May her memories live on in all of you and help you to grieve her loss.  
Dina Perrault (Degenaer)

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**Dina Perrault (Degenaer) - Green Bay, WI - Vicki's cousin** - March 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ To all Helen's family,

*We send our condolences to all of you. Helen was a sweet, smiling lady who touched a lot of our lives. She will be greatly missed. You all are in our thoughts and prayers as you travel this journey. God bless You.*

*Lynn & Ron*

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**Lynn & Ron Stickel - Las Cruces, NM - Friend - March 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM**