



Opal Mae Larson

July 27, 1918 - January 9, 2015

Opal Mae Larson, 96, of Aurora, WI, passed away peacefully Friday, Jan 9, 2015, at Angel's Touch Assisted Living in De Pere, WI.

She was born July 27, 1918, in Kingsford, MI, the daughter of William and Elsie (McGuire) Peronto. Opal graduated salutatorian from Kingsford High School in 1935. She married Gerald Larson on March 15, 1941, at Wesley Methodist Church in Iron Mountain, MI. They were married for 60 years until Gerald passed away on Sept. 27, 2001.

Opal was employed for 27 years in the canteen service of the Veteran's Hospital in Iron Mountain. She was an active member of the Aurora Free Church and was instrumental in the Ladies' Aid.

Opal was a "pint-sized dynamo" with a can-do attitude that packed a lot of strength and determination in her tiny frame. She was a curious soul and an avid reader, eager to learn new things well into her ripe old age. She cared deeply about her family and community, was an avid baker, a wonderful hostess, and a devoted friend to many, young and old. Her famous rye bread, of which she baked thousands of loaves in her lifetime, nourished the people she loved. She leaves behind countless memories that we will cherish always.

She is survived by her daughters, Bonnie (David) Schneider of Kingsford, MI,

and Karen (Marcel) Vinyeta of Green Bay, WI; grandchildren, Kerri Schneider, Amy (Shane Thiel) Schneider, Mark Vinyeta and Kirsten (Roger Hicks) Vinyeta; great-grandchildren, Cody Hakala, Ashley Olson, and Gerald Vinyeta; sister-in-law, Vivian Larson; several nieces, nephews, and cousins; and countless friends and neighbors that were like family to Opal.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Debra Lynn Larson; sisters, Orpha Peronto, and Mildred Carlson; and brothers, Russell, Milton, Lyle, Roy and Kenneth Peronto.

Opal's family want to thank Opal's friends that continued to write, visit, and reach out to her as she neared the end of her life. The family also wants to thank the devoted people that cared lovingly for Opal, including Lavonne Bray and the caretakers at Angel's Touch Assisted Living, as well as Heartland Hospice.

Visitation will be held from 10 am to 12 p.m. (noon). Tuesday, Jan 13, at the Aurora Free Church in Aurora, WI, and will be followed by funeral services celebrating Opal's life at 12 pm (noon) at the same location. Rev. Karl Utzat will be officiating. Burial will be at the Homestead-Aurora Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Bill Carlson, Lee Carlson, Chad Hedmark, Michael Hedmark, Bob Hedmark, Roger Hicks, John Pearson, and Mark Vinyeta.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Caring House in Iron Mountain, MI, (906-774-1337, <https://caringhouseim.wordpress.com/214-2/>). Condolences to the family of Opal Larson may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon-Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Homestead-Aurora Cemetery

1372 Osterberg Parkway
Niagara, WI 54151

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 13. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Aurora Free Church
1372 Osterberg Parkway
Aurora, WI 54151

Funeral Service

JAN 13. 12:00 PM (CT)

Aurora Free Church
1372 Osterberg Parkway
Aurora, WI 54151

Tribute Wall

JF

“ *Bonnie & Karen, my deepest sympathies. I have many memories of Opal & Gerald. They are now reunited in eternal life. Rest in Peace Opal, thanks for the memories.* ”

Jennifer Sorensen Flynn - January 13, 2015 at 01:02 AM

MO

“ *What a beautiful obituary! Well stated! You truly captured "OP".*

I met Opal when I was 15 years old and working in the Canteen and Cafeteria at the VA while on a summer youth program. I was able to keep that job for three years thanks to Opal and then later after I graduated also. When she found out I was a "Felch" girl and took me under her wing. She was so kind and really took the time to explain to me what we were doing whether it was inventory or any other task we did there. She really wanted me to "learn". I appreciated her time and patience with me in my youth and we continued to be friends for the past 33 years. I enjoyed the times when she and the "VA gang" would come to my parents for a meal or we would meet at the Blind Duck for dinner etc...

After Gerald passed I would pick her up for a fish fry etc...just some "girl time" for us and afterwards when I dropped her off she always made sure I came in for some dessert. She loved to visit and catch up and was alwayyyys interested in me and what I was up to no matter what my age.

I loved hearing of her stories of youth and how her father worked so hard to make ends meet and her trying to save enough just to have pencils for school and all the trials, tribulations and celebrations of her life!! What a treasure she was.

I am proud to have called her my former supervisor and forever friend.

May you keep all your treasured memories of her close to your heart always. I know I will.

With my sincerest, deepest sympathies.

Mary R. Oman

Mary Oman - 1 second ago

Mary Oman - January 12, 2015 at 02:34 PM

AB

“ *Dearest Opal, one of my second moms and my mom's good friend in dreams, goals and deeds. Opal's interests and awareness made her relevant with the times and she always imparted to me the importance of heritage, history and embracing loved ones with words of loving guidance and to strive to be your own best self, keep moving forward even if you falter at times- always strive toward your best in the midst everything. May her Swedish Rye bread recipe and technique continue to warm the kitchens of us all for many years to come.*

Aleda W. Bourassa/Dan - January 12, 2015 at 12:55 PM

DW

“ *Dawn Wahlstrom lit a candle in memory of Opal Mae Larson*



Dawn Wahlstrom - January 11, 2015 at 10:56 AM

DW

A wonderful friend and Spiritual Lady!

Dawn Wahlstrom - January 11, 2015 at 11:00 AM

CP

*I have such fond memories of Opal way back when Willard Osterberg directed the Aurora Free Church Choir that I was part of. She not only had a beautiful voice but was beautiful inside and out!
Carol Broullire Peterson, (Dales sister in Minnesota)*

Carol Peterson - January 12, 2015 at 11:27 AM

MO

What a beautiful obituary! Well stated! You truly captured "OP".

I met Opal when I was 15 years old and working in the Canteen and Cafeteria at the VA while on a summer youth program. I was able to keep that job for three years thanks to Opal and then later after I graduated also. When she found out I was a "Felch" girl and took me under her wing. She was so kind and really took the time to explain to me what we were doing whether it was inventory or any other task we did there. She really wanted me to "learn". I appreciated her time and patience with me in my youth and we continued to be friends for the past 33 years. I enjoyed the times when she and the "VA gang" would come to my parents for a meal or we would meet at the Blind Duck for dinner etc...

After Gerald passed I would pick her up for a fish fry etc...just some "girl time" for us and afterwards when I dropped her off she always made sure I came in for some dessert. She loved to visit and catch up and was alwayyyys interested in me and what I was up to no matter what my age.

I loved hearing of her stories of youth and how her father worked so hard to make ends meet and her trying to save enough just to have pencils for school and all the trials, tribulations and celebrations of her life!! What a treasure she was.

I am proud to have called her my former supervisor and forever friend.

May you keep all your treasured memories of her close to your heart always. I know I will.

*With my sincerest, deepest sympathies.
Mary R. Oman*

Mary Oman - January 12, 2015 at 02:31 PM

BH

Karen and Bonnie I have a lot of good memories of time spent with your mom. Alot of laughs on some Sunday afternoons with my parents and yours laughing away about old times. Your mom really had alot of humor to her. By the way I still remember your dads laugh also!! So amazing she out lived the family. Working at Pinecrest I ran into her old neighbor Cletus Bastian he went to school with her and remembered how smart she was in school and had nothing but good things to say about her. It is always nice to hear stories of when our elders were young and what they were like. I wish I could go back to those times for a visit and see how they were. Wouldn't that be neat. Take Care girls and I will see you Bonnie at work. Love you guys. Your cousin Betty Hansen

Betty Hansen - January 13, 2015 at 08:14 PM

LB

What a gift I received the day Opal entered my life. She had so much grace and dignity and then the next moment could turn around and make you laugh with some humor out of left field. I am so grateful for the love that she gave to me, for the stories and memories of her life that she so willingly shared with me, and for showing me how to grow older with scads of style and flare. We had some adventures together, we laughed often and even cried sometimes. Opal was truly beautiful inside and out. Rest in peace dear - you will always be remembered with a smile and a huge thank you! LaVonne

LaVonne E. Bray - January 14, 2015 at 08:44 AM