

WILMA MARIE BLUM

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Wilma Marie Blum, aged 91 years, 3 months, and 30 days, was born in Exeter Township, Monticello, to Fred and Marie (Christen) Zumkehr. She attended Exeter Country School through the 8th Grade.

Wilma had various jobs, including working as a waitress at Ft. Hopkins in Monroe (while living with her much loved Aunt Marie and Uncle Ed Frautschi, a local photographer) and for the Woelffer drug store in Monticello, where she met her future husband, a local basketball jock, who came to the soda fountain at the drug store pretty regularly for a glass of Coke.

Wilma married Ray "Coley" Blum at the Little Brown Church in Iowa on March 12, 1941. Together they ran a Citgo Gas station in Monticello for numerous years; and in later years, until retirement, she worked for Dorman Cheese Co. in Monroe.

Wilma was preceded in death by her young father (a man that bought for her a treasured piano); twin sons, Duane and Daryl in 1942; stepfather, Henry Duerst, in 1970; mother in 1980; and husband in 1990. She is the last of her generation with her brothers, Arnold Zumkehr and Raymond Zumkehr, and her only sister, Eleanor Edseth, also predeceasing her.

She is survived by two daughters: Carole (Pete) Goepfert, of Monticello, and Diane Blum of Monroe, and by numerous nieces and nephews.

These are the outline facts of the life of a beautiful woman who devoted herself to her children; who read her Bible regularly and very highly valued her religious faith; who believed in "right and wrong;" who worked hard both outside and inside the home; who contended that every single piece of laundry, including socks, sheets and towels needed to be ironed; who made the best chicken meals Sunday after Sunday; who raised glorious roses; who never once complained during all of the years that she was bedridden; and who had a smile that brightened and touched everyone that saw it.

All of our dogs always became "her" dogs because they had the good sense to instinctively recognize her gentleness and constancy.

Funeral services will be at Zwingli United Church of Christ, Saturday, June 19, 2004. Friends may call at the church from 10:00 a.m. through the service which will begin at 11:00 a.m.

The Family of Wilma Blum requests that all memorials be directed to Zwingli United Church of Christ, Monticello.