

Alta Ellen Iseler

(February 18, 1918 - September 11, 2012)

Alta Ellen (Leatherman) Pontious Iseler, 94, of Port Hope, went to her heavenly home to join her loved ones on Tuesday, September 11, 2012. She peacefully left this earth for a better place while surrounded by her loving family at her daughter's home. After a long, full life she has finally received her ultimate reward. Alta was born on February 18, 1918 in Van Wert County, OH to William and Lillie May (Kempton) Leatherman. She was the fifth of eight children. At age 6, her family moved to Three Rivers, MI where she attended school and graduated in 1936. A month later, she married her sweetheart, Paul Pontious, who she met at church.



Together they welcome three beautiful children and lived happily until Paul passed away in 1943, in Huntertown, IN. Alta's sister Ola then introduced her to Robert Iseler who she married in 1945 and moved near Port Hope, MI where she remained for the next 67 years. There the couple welcomed 6 more precious children to complete their family. Alta instilled in her children the importance of God, the value of hard work and the significance of family. As a loyal, dedicated and faithful Christian, stories of God and Heaven naturally filled her home because that is what filled her heart. To her, value was not the balance of your bank account – it came from the person inside and the moral and ethical values you stood behind. Apart from raising 9 children and working on the family's dairy farm, Alta was a jack of all trades. She was: a Sunday school teacher and superintendent of Redman Presbyterian Church Sunday School, a family genealogy buff, self-taught pianist, a seamstress, farm bookkeeper for Willow Creek Stock Farm, a spectacular painter (learning to paint in her 60s) and a Member at Grindstone-Port Hope Sportmen's Club. At home, she often cooked as many as 5 meals a day to cover all the farm shifts. For 32 years she was a realtor, retiring at the young age of 88. She worked hard and loved her family even harder. From this one amazing woman came 9 children, 30 grandchildren, 61 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren and somehow she was able to keep us all straight! Alta leaves behind her children Myrna (Dick) Hofer, of Midland, Gayla (Gordon) Starr of Davison, Jim (Charlene) Iseler of Port Hope, Gwen Breault (Eddie Keen) of Midland, Brad (Mary Lou) Iseler of Port Hope, Doug (Mary Ann) Iseler of Romeo, Vanda (Dan) Yaroch of Midland and Stan (Jamie) Iseler of Freeland. She was welcomed to her heavenly home by her husbands, daughter Pat and grandchildren Diane and Tyler as well as her parents and siblings. Visitation will take place on Friday, September 14, 2012 from 2:00 to 8:00 pm at MacAlpine Funeral Home, 302 N. Hanselman St., Bad Axe. Funeral services will take place at 12:00 noon on Saturday, September 15, 2012 at Faith Gospel Tabernacle, 3108 Rescue Rd., Bad Axe, MI 4841. Alta's family will receive friends at the church at 11:00 am until the time of service. Pastor Mike Beeler will officiate. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider Faith Gospel Tabernacle or Heartland Hospice in honor of Alta. Condolences may be shared at www.macalpinefuneralhome.com