

Barnhart, Ruth

Ruth Barnhart, 91, of Munising, went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, May 21, 2005. She died peacefully in her sleep at her home. Ruth lived her entire life in Michigan. She was born on June 15, 1913 in Sault Ste. Marie to James and Mary Tomlinson. When Ruth was just a few months old, her family moved to Sugar Island, where her father made a living building log cabins for settlers. A few years later, her parents took Ruth and her brother and sister to Munising to live. They traveled from St. Ste. Marie on a sailing ship. Her father found work in Munising as a carpenter. When Ruth was five years old, the family moved again — this time to the Thumb area. They bought a farm and lived there for about 12 years. Around 1930, they moved to the Detroit area. Before long, Ruth met Oren Dean Barnhart and they were married on October 3, 1932 when Ruth was 19 years old. Ruth and Dean raised four children of their own and were foster parents to many more. They lived in Warren until Dean retired and they moved to Reed City. A few years after Dean's death in 1980, Ruth moved from Reed City to Munising. Her years in Munising were happy ones. Ruth loved gardening and planted beautiful perennial gardens around her home. She especially loved roses. She enjoyed caring for dozens of African violets and many other house plants. Her home was a comfortable haven that her grandchildren loved to visit. Ruth was a member of Faith Baptist Church in Warren where she sang in the choir and taught Sunday School for many years. After moving to Munising, she attended Munising Baptist Church. Her gardens provided many large, beautiful bouquets for the church altar. She is survived by her daughters: Pat Pietrzak and her husband, Frank, of Reed City, and Barbara Robb and her husband, Jim, of Coldwater; son, John Barnhart and his wife, Kathy, of AuTrain; three beloved grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Dean, in 1980; and her son, Bill, in 2001. Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2005, at the Knoblock Funeral Home in Kinde. Ruth will be buried in the Port Austin Township Cemetery beside her husband. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until the time of the service on Thursday at the funeral home. Donations in Ruth's memory can be made to North Woods Home Nursing and Hospice of Munising.