

Thelma Pearl Eliece Vrana
November 2, 1931 - December 2, 2025



Thelma Pearl Eliece (Lester) Vrana was born November 2, 1931 to Joseph P. and Fern Vida Lester. She grew up outside of Charbonneau, North Dakota with seven siblings and attended a one-room schoolhouse.

Thelma would walk to school with her siblings and remembers getting stranded at the schoolhouse during the Ides of March Blizzard of 1941. At age 10 she stayed with her mother's aunt, and like many children of this era, she learned the functions of living including:

the names of flowers, crocheting, and the basics of sewing. When she was older, her family moved into town, and she attended a two-room school. She did household chores for a neighbor on the weekends to earn her "book money" and she was able to complete her high school education by correspondence.

After high school, Thelma attended Dickinson State Teachers College (DSTC), and met her future husband "Eddy" Edward Vrana. They married on June 12, 1952 and were together for a total of 62 years. During their marriage, they lived in many states, but in 1969 they set their roots in Upton. After her children had grown up, Thelma found work at multiple locations in town including the Western Cafe, Upton School lunchroom, Traffic Control for the Wyoming Highway Department, and Weston Inn Motel.

She enjoyed many aspects of life, but most of all she adored caring for her family, watching her grandchildren grow, spoiling her great grandchildren, helping others, loving the Lord, and spending time with her siblings. She was a very strong woman who survived many ailments during her long life, including beating cancer in August of 1998.

Thelma peacefully passed into the arms of the Lord surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren on December 2, 2025. She was a blessing to everyone that knew her for the last 94 years and one month (to the day) that she was on this Earth.

She is preceded in death by: her parents, beloved husband Eddy; three brothers (Tom, Joseph, Lloyd); three sisters (Annie, Ida, Elsie); and her grandson Shawn. She is survived by her sister Hazel Brossman (Lander); her five children and their spouses, Virginia Claar and Dick Ehman (Gillette), George and Betty Vrana (Upton), Delila and Mike Anderson (Upton), Joe and Beverly Vrana (Upton), and Diana and Tom McMillan (Upton); and her 15 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren. She always said "As the family grew, the love and caring did too".