

Kraft, Mildred

Mildred M. (Van Effen) Kraft, 88, of Pigeon and formerly of Escanaba and Flat Rock, died Friday, February 11, 2005, at her home at Country Bay Village in Pigeon. She was born August 23, 1916 in Gladstone to August and Lena (Hambeau) Van Effen, the oldest of 15 children. Mildred was married to Art Beauchamp of Flat Rock. They owned and operated their dairy farm until Art's passing. Later, she met Erich Kraft, of Pigeon, and they married on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1953, at St. John's Lutheran Church on Berne Road, Pigeon. Millie enjoyed helping others at Country Bay Village. Mildred is survived by six sisters, Mary Jane Vermullen, Betty Tryan and her husband, Louis, Sr., Rita Caron and her husband, Herbert, Irene Bassett, Carol "Midge" Wallin and her companion, Duane Cohoon, and Susan Lombardi, all of Escanaba; two brothers, Kenneth Van Effen and his wife, Ellie, and Harold Van Effen and his wife, Doris, also of Escanaba; two aunts, Bernice Dumas, of Chicago, and Edna Swanson, of Escanaba; numerous nieces and nephews; her step-son, Lowell E. Kraft and his wife, Nancy, and her step-daughter, Naomi E. Wichert and her husband, Gilbert, all of Pigeon. Grandma Millie is missed and was loved by her grandchildren, David Kraft and his wife, Sherri (Fritz), of Sand Point/Pigeon, Susan (Wichert) Weir and her husband, Dr. James, of Saginaw, Carol (Kraft) Nelson and her husband, Joel, of Muskego, Wisconsin, Daniel Kraft and his wife, Elizabeth (Wylegala), of Williamston, and Dean Wichert, of Lago Vista, Texas. They all adored their Grandma Mille for her great cooking and baking, the trips they took with Grandma and Grandpa, and sleepovers in Grandma's nice big house on S. Main Street, as well as later at their home on E. Michigan Avenue in Pigeon. Also surviving are great-grandchildren, Alissa (Kraft) Eisbrenner and her husband, Matt, of Georgetown, Texas, Stephanie (Kraft) McLean and her husband, Allan, of Rochester Hills, Julie (Wichert) McCrory and her husband, James, of Round Rock, Texas, Matthew Kraft of Evanston, Illinois, Jared and Alec Weir, of Alma, Sean Wichert, of Austin, Texas, Natalie Nelson, of New Ulm, Minnesota, Stuart Kraft, of Williamston, Eric Nelson, of Madison, Wisconsin, Lindsay Nelson, of Muskego, Wisconsin, and Ella and Grace Kraft, of Williamston; one great-great-grandson, Dylan McCrory, of Round Rock, Texas. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Erich, on November 16, 1994; her sisters, Marge, Leota, and Jackie; and her brothers, August, Jr., Raymond, and Gary; her beloved little dog and constant companion, Missy, who was with her until January 27, 2005, at the home they shared in Country Bay Village, where she and Erich were the first residents on May 14, 1994. Services will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 13, 2005, at St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church, Berne, with the Rev. James A. Gorsegner, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. until the time of service today at the church. Memorials may be made to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Scheurer Hospital, or the Michigan Lutheran Seminary Foundation.