

8-21-1910

3-9-1998

Frances E. Kramer

EAGLE — Frances E. Kramer, age 87, of Eagle, passed away Monday, March 9, 1998, at Lindengrove Health Care Center in Waukesha. She was born Aug. 21, 1910, in Eagle, to Frank and Anna (Arn-dorfe) Agathen. Frances was a lifelong resident of Eagle and a member of St. Theresa's Catholic Church.

She worked for V.J. Sherman Grocery Store for 35 years, and also worked for 15 years in housekeeping at Carroll College. After retiring, she worked 15 more years for Chapman's Eagle Variety Store.

She is survived by her son, Paul (Aljea) Kramer of Oconomowoc; daughter, Yvonne (Ronald) Beranek of Waukesha; eight loving grandchildren: Beth Ann, Tim, David and Barbara Kramer, Lisa Beranek (Ed) Terasa, Lynn (Jeff) Prons-chinske, Lori Beranek (Kevin) Quirk, Jennifer Beranek; six great-grandchildren: Elizabeth, Emily, Julia, Alex, Annelise, and Connor. She is further survived by three sisters-in-law: Dorothy Kramer, Bernice Sadenwasser and Catherine Agathen; and by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul; daughter, Monica; and brother, Raymond.

A Mass of Christian burial will be said at 10 a.m. Friday, March 13, 1998, at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Eagle. The Rev. Mike Krejci will officiate. Burial will be at St. Theresa's Cemetery. Friends may call after 4 p.m. Thursday at Mealy's Funeral Home in Eagle, with a parish Bible vigil at 7:30 p.m. Memorials to St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Eagle are appreciated.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANCES ELIZABETH (AGATHEN) KRAMER

Born: August 21, 1910

Died: March 9, 1998

Frances Kramer lived in a neat, tidy, little white house at 124 Park Street in Eagle. A long garden of pansies, violets, irises, and daisies bordered the driveway. Lily of the valley grew under her kitchen window, pussy willows and peonies in the backyard, a trellis of bright pink roses next to the side door, and the first crocuses of spring by the front steps. She was known as "Mrs. Kramer" or "Frances" to those she passed on the street or saw in church or talked to at the store, but to us, her grandchildren, she was . . . "Nana."

Frances lived her days in anticipation of the weekend when her family visited the little white house. She prepared by cooking and baking; weekends were not complete without the Sunday dinner table loaded with food. Her feather-light rolls, sugar-encrusted donuts, spicy mustard sauce, soft dumplings, and rich carrot cake were treats we came to expect. Sometimes the weekend started early when all of the grandchildren spent Saturday night with her watching Lawrence Welk and having a little "party." Nana always said that it didn't seem like Sunday unless the family was around.

Frances will be remembered for the simple, everyday things of her life. She kept her most valuable possession, a worn prayer book, close by, and she could be found reading and praying from it any time of day. She faithfully tended her garden and introduced us to the usual vegetables she harvested like peas, beans, and tomatoes, and to the more unusual ones like rhubarb and kohlrabi. She cleaned, swept, and organized with precision and gusto, leaving everything in her wake spotless. She brought magic to our Christmas Eves, baking hundreds of cookies and presiding over carols and gifts. She taught her grandchildren to play King's Corners and kept their "candy box" filled. And she never, ever let us leave her house without something in hand: cookies to take back to college, leftovers from dinner, or vegetables and flowers from those gardens.

Frances was gentle, kind, patient, generous, and strong-willed. She never complained about her lot in life or the hardships she had to endure. As a widow and single mother, she set a courageous example by working long hours to support herself and her children. Although she never had a great deal of money, she was rich in the seeds she sowed. The fruit of her labor lives on in the accomplishments of her two children, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Frances lived in Eagle her whole life; she didn't drive a car; she never flew in an airplane, and she didn't graduate from high school, but she was a woman full of everyday wisdom and unwavering devotion. She filled her life's journey with the two things that she loved most in the world—her faith and her family.

Lisa Beranek Terasa
Granddaughter of Frances Kramer