



Bernice Baker

October 8, 1905 - November 29, 2008

BERNICE BAKER, formerly of Petroleum and Bluffton, died Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008, 1:20 p.m., at The Oaks Living Center in Columbia City, where she has lived since October, 2006. Born Oct. 9, 1905, in Wells County, she was the daughter of the late Charlie D. and Stella (Grove) Markley. She attended school in Chester Township, graduating from Petroleum High School in 1923. She began working at Markley Brothers Grocery in Bluffton after graduation. She married Ralph H. Baker on April 14, 1934, in Saratoga, Ind.; together they owned and operated groceries in Fort Wayne, Keystone and Petroleum for several years. She began working in the cafeteria at Petroleum School in 1953, moving to Southern Wells when it opened, and retired from there. After selling her home in Petroleum in 1979, she moved to Capri II Apartments in Bluffton, living there until her age and declining health caused the move to Columbia City to be near her family. She was a member of Crescent Chapter 48, OES, the Rebecah Lodge, and attended Petroleum United Methodist Church in Petroleum when she lived there. She was also a former member of the None Such Home Extension Club of Nottingham Township. Bernice loved to cook, play Scrabble, Bridge and Euchre, crochet, travel and spend time with her friends and family. Surviving are her daughter, Barbara (Bill) Overdeer of Columbia City; grandson, Brent (Cindy) Bockelman, granddaughter, Lori (Brandin) Heuer; step-grandsons, Michael (Angie) Overdeer, Mark (Jo) Overdeer, Randall Bockelman, and Michael (Dawn) Bockelman, all of Columbia City, and Matthew (Becky) Overdeer of Clearwater, Fla.; four great-granddaughters; 14 step-great-grandchildren; three step-great-great-grandchildren; sister, Charleen Roberts of Marion; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two brothers, Lewis J. Markley and infant Victor Eugene Markley; and a sister, Josphine Barnes. Service is 2 p.m. Wednesday at Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home, 308 W. Washington St., Bluffton, with calling one hour prior. Pastor C. James Cress officiating. Calling also from 3 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Burial in Stahl Cemetery, north of Petroleum. Memorials to Heartland Hospice or Loving Options. Online condolences to www.thomarich.com

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 2. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-3850
info@thomarich.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Bernice Baker*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - November 29, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *Bernice Baker*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Barbara and family,
I was looking through the News-Banner site and noticed the passing of your mother. It brought back many memories of my first days/years of teaching. I truly loved the time I spent in Petroleum and Bernice was one of the reasons...a very special lady! I taught for many years and then moved to Florida and worked for Disney for 19 years. My best to your family.
Sally Mittlestedt###imported-begin###Sally Mittlestedt###imported-end##*

December 30, 2008 at 06:24 PM



“ *Bobbie, Bill and Family, We are sorry to hear of Aunt Bernice's passing. It's amazing that she was 103!!!! Such a great lady. I have very fond memories of her that I will hold dearly.
With sympathy and love,
Trudy and Michala###imported-begin###Trudy and Michala Hughes###imported-end##*

December 02, 2008 at 11:31 AM



“ Bobby, Bill, and family,
We are saddened to hear of Aunt Bernice's passing. We all have such fond memories to keep with us. Court will always remember her amazing talent of reciting the ABC's backwards (even at 100 yrs. old!), and her angel pudding can't be beat! Our thoughts and prayers to you and your family.
In sympathy and love,
Jim, Kelli, Emma, Court, Gus, and Josie##imported-begin##The Beisel Family##imported-end##

December 02, 2008 at 09:45 AM



“ To Bernice Baker's family, We want to send our deepest sympathy to you. Bernice has been a dear friend for many years.
George & Mildred Risser##imported-begin##George & Mildred Risser##imported-end##

December 02, 2008 at 08:24 AM



“ My condolences to your family..Wow 103!!That is awesome. I attended Petroleum and then S Wells schools and always appreciated how sweet and friendly Bernice was. Always a smile and a greeting..they just don't make lunch ladies like they used to!! I'm glad she touched my life :)##imported-begin##Cynthia (Graham) Hollingsworth##imported-end##

December 02, 2008 at 01:06 AM