

Helen Smith, 94

Aug. 18, 1918 - Jan. 18, 2013

SAN DIEGO, CA — Helen G. Smith, age 94, of San Diego, CA, passed away January 18, 2013, at Lemon Grove Care & Rehabilitation Center where she was being treated for esophageal cancer.

Helen, the second of seven children born to Frank and Martha Kardell, came into the world on the Kardell family farm near Shelby, August 18, 1918. She attended Shelby School until 1933 when her family moved to another farm south of Walnut. She graduated with a Normal Training Certificate and began teaching

in a one-room schoolhouse near Walnut. During these years she also contributed to her church by singing in the choir and teaching Sunday School. After teaching school in Iowa for several years, Helen traveled with a girlfriend to San Diego, CA for a summer vacation. She decided to seek employment as a driver for the local transit company where she met Ted Smith, a fellow bus driver.

Following marriage to Ted in April of 1945, she became a homemaker and mother of two children, Shirley and Terry. In 1953 Helen began a 60-year relationship with Calvary Lutheran Church where she used her teaching skills for over 30 years to guide and inspire many generations of Sunday school students. She was also an exceptional and versatile seamstress, as well as an enthusiastic and prolific craftsperson, whose crafts have found a place in many homes and hearts throughout the San Diego area.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Ted Smith; her parents, Frank Kardell and Martha Pingel Kardell; her sisters and brothers-in-law, Louise Kardell Swancutt and Ralph Swancutt and Maxine Kardell Kriz and George Kriz; her sister-in-law, Ramona Kardell; her niece, Nancy Kriz; and her nephews, Roger Kriz and Tommy Kardell. Helen is survived by her children, Shirley Smith (and David Siler) and Terry Smith of San Diego; her brothers, Franz Kardell (Mary) of Oakland; George Kardell of Dallas, TX; Lester (Margaret) Kardell of Omaha, NE and her sister, Eileen (Don) Morse of Council Bluffs; as well as many nieces and nephews and her long-standing friends from Calvary Lutheran Church in San Diego, CA.

Helen's Remembrance Service will be held on June 8, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. at the United Lutheran Church in Shelby with Pastor Heather Ploen officiating. Interment will be at the Shelby Cemetery.

