

## CHRISTINE VANDERBURG

January 18, 1925 - May 27, 2010

CARLSBAD -- Christine was born in the little town of Bennington, Oklahoma, the fourth of nine children born to Maynard and Jennie Cox. She walked the dirt, back country roads to a one room school house with her brothers and sisters and begged her mom to go barefoot at the first sign of Spring. The school is where she met her future husband, Otis. He thought she was the prettiest girl in all of the county and threw an eraser at her to get her attention. His ploy worked and they were married November 1, 1940. They would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary this coming fall.

Christine and Otis began their lives together as peanut sharecroppers. When a flood came and ruined their first crop, they took one suitcase and got on a bus coming west. For one year they toiled working in the copper mines and cotton fields of Arizona before coming to Carlsbad, California to join family members who settled here. Otis quickly found a job as a welder at Camp Pendleton and Christine became a waitress at a restaurant located at "Four Corners" in Oceanside. She worked until they started their family and then she devoted her life to her husband, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

While raising her family she kept a garden, raised chickens, milked the cow and made butter to sell to friends along with extra eggs from the hens. She worked side by side with Otis to build their home on El Camino Real which became the gathering place for family at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and Saturday evenings when she would make homemade ice cream from the fresh cream collected during the week. There was always room for one more at her table, even when times were rough financially.

Besides family she had a heart for God and serving Him. She was president of Women's Missionary Counsel at the Carlsbad Assembly of God and worked making clothing and quilts for families around the world, even bandages for victims of leprosy in India. Many years she was involved on the board of the local chapter of Christian Women's Club and had many friends through that organization. She delighted in singing with her sisters Ruth and Frances in an a cappella trio for church services and revival meetings where her father Maynard preached. Her most important job was Prayer Warrior. As children the last thing we heard at night was the sound of Mom speaking to God about the matters of the day, her husband and family.

She always had a heart for helping shut-ins and was taking meals to those in need long before she knew about Meals on Wheels. She and Otis joined that organization as volunteers in Durant, Oklahoma where they purchased a second home 25 years ago. It was their joy to spend the fall and spring months on their ranch. They created a family haven there for fishing, hunting, 4 wheeling and just relaxing and watching the fireflies where all were welcome and all were fed the wonderful meals that she lovingly prepared time and time again.

In her retirement years Christine introduced Otis to the two step and line dancing and they spent many enjoyable evenings in Oklahoma dancing to live music and making lasting friends

wherever they went. For a few years here in Carlsbad, she was able to take Jazzercise classes where she was able to express herself in dance as well.

When she left for her final reward on Thursday afternoon she was surrounded by her husband, children and all of her grandchildren. Christine leaves here her beloved husband Otis, children Renee Tague (husband Steve), David Vanderburg (wife Laura) and Karen Webber (husband Steve). Grandchildren include, Mark Tague, Matthew Tague (Kelli), Danielle Rumford (Aaron), Christopher Vanderburg (Hana), and Stephanie Vojta (Travis). There are 10 great grandchildren. Her surviving sisters include, Marie Smiley, Frances Fisler, Ruth Winans, and Donna Griffin. The memorial service will be held Thursday June 3, 2:00PM at the Carlsbad Community Church on Harding Street in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow in the Worship Center.

**Published in North County Times on June 2, 2010**