

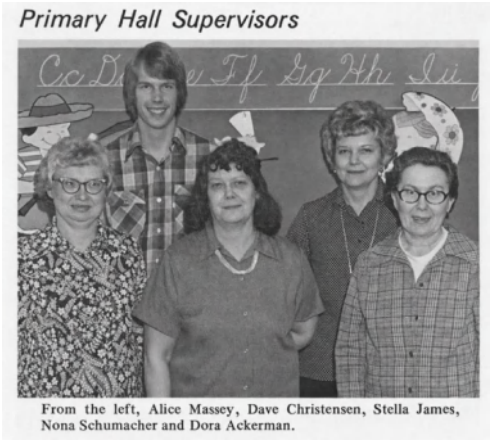
Nona J. *Fraki* Schumacher

April 6, 1931 – November 1, 2011

Nona J. Schumacher, 80, of Spearfish, South Dakota, passed away November 1, 2011, shortly after being diagnosed with lung cancer.

Nona was born April 6, 1931, in Heinola, Minnesota, the youngest of 11 children born to Oscar and Hilma Fraki. Her family moved to New York Mills, Minnesota, in the early 1940s. She attended school there until her junior year of high school, when she transferred to the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf. After graduating in 1951, she moved to Minneapolis. On September 29, 1951, she married John J. Schumacher.

A natural caregiver, Nona had an instinct for recognizing when someone needed help and was determined to provide it. She worked part time for a couple of years as a houseparent at Primary Hall at the South Dakota School for the Deaf before joining Communication Services for the Deaf in 1980. During her CSD career, she coordinated services for elderly Deaf and hard of hearing clients in Sioux Falls and later became the first director of CSD's Rapid City office. She retired in 1991.While living in Sioux Falls, Nona and John also managed the Maple Creek apartment complex, which provided housing for Deaf and hard of hearing residents. Nona made sure residents gathered in the community room on Saturday mornings for coffee, doughnuts, and friendship.


Primary Hall Supervisors

From the left, Alice Massey, Dave Christensen, Stella James, Nona Schumacher and Dora Ackerman.


Farewell Party for
Nona and John Schumacher

After retiring, Nona and John moved to Spearfish, where they lived for several years before family circumstances and John's declining health required another move. Following 15 years in Sun City, California, Nona returned to her beloved Black Hills in May 2011 to live with her daughter.

Nona will be remembered as a generous and loving mother and grandmother, a cherished role model, and a devoted friend. Her kindness touched many lives in the communities where she lived and worked.

She is survived by her daughter, Susan (Bruce) Kater of Spearfish; grandson, Andrew J. Page of Fairbanks, Alaska; sisters-in-law, Alice Grieger of New York Mills, Minnesota, and Catherine Wangler of Aberdeen, South Dakota; brother-in-law, Sebastian (Carol) Axtman of Pierre, South Dakota; numerous nieces and nephews; and her dearest friends, Sheila and DJ Hoebel of Greeley, Colorado.

She was preceded in death by her parents, all ten of her siblings, and her husband of 54 years, John.

No service was planned at the time of her death. Her family planned to gather later to celebrate her life. In recognition of Nona's love for animals, memorial contributions to a local animal shelter were suggested. Arrangements were entrusted to Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapels and Crematory Service of Spearfish.