Leona R. Southwick

A funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Magner-Maloney Funeral Home for Leona R. Southwick, 78, of Santa Maria. Interment will be private at Los Osos Valley Memorial Park, Los Osos. The Rev. Jonathan M. Harrel will officiate.

She died of natural causes Oct. 8, 1996, at a local hospital.

Mrs. Southwick was born May 8, 1918, in Egeland, N.D.

She came to Santa Maria in 1967 from Granada Hills. Mrs. Southwick was a homemaker, and worked with her husband for the Bible Educator Ministry for more than 25 years in Santa Maria.

Survivors include her husband of more than 54 years Pastor George W. Southwick of Santa Maria; children Carol J. DeKorte of Sisters, Ore., Philip R. Southwick, and Paul J. Southwick, both of Santa Maria, and Wanda J. Stouffer of Bellevue, Wash.; brothers Wallace Rasmussen of West Linn, Ore., and James J. Rasmussen of Boise, Idaho; sisters Norma Harrel of Ventura, and Marie Miller of Tualatin, Ore.; and eight grandchildren.

Visitation is from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. today.

Leona was born into the home of Scandinavian Emigrants. The fifth child and first daughter of a family of eight children.

Egeland N.D. is a little town near the Canadian border. Her father ran the OTTER TAIL POWER PLANT. Bringing electricity to that town. Also was the proprieter of a Gasoline Station. For a number of years he was elected Mayor of Egeland.

Leona grew up as a child of the 'great' depression. Experiencing hard work and difficult times. At harvest time she worked summers with an Aunt in the 'cook shack', feeding the hungry harvest hands.

Just before she was born a great revival broke out in that community of 350 people; with lots of farmers in the surrounding vicinity.

The revival was led by the Moseid Brothers; Norwegians who had been to the Azusa Street meetings in Los Angeles. Lots of good music and great singing. Many people came to know the LORD in a new way.

Leona was born into that spiritual atmosphere. She treasured the written testimony of her Aunt Lena Rasmussen's wonderful physical healing. Leona spent a great deal of time in church...hearing many young preachers who went on to be well known in their later years. She was her father's first assistant in cleaning the EGELAND GOSPEL TABERNACLE. One of her jobs was helping her mother feed the many Evangelists and Preachers who came to speak at the church.

In 1936 her family moved to California. Jobs were becoming more plentiful in the far west. There she saw the Pacific Ocean for the first time... All her lifelong she was fascinated by water. Evidently she loved it being the daughter of sea-roving Vikings. Now she is at rest just two miles from that Ocean.

The whole family began to attend a large Full Gospel Church in North Hollywood California. It was pastored by the late Fielding T. 'Cowboy Tom' Curry...A most remarkable man.

While attending there she secretly confided to a family member..."I havn't met him yet, but I am going to marry that fellow---The Assistant Pastor." And she did! This was exceptional for this shy and retiring North Dakota girl. Evidently the LORD revealed something to her no one else knew... Not even me!

For more than 54 years she has been my companion in the Gospel Ministry How she loved the Kingdom Message the LORD revealed to us. All who knew her loved her...For she was much like her mother in many ways. It is written: "Godliness which contentment is great gain."

NOW SHE AWAITS THE TRUMP OF THE MORN!