

Thelda Prather left this earth peacefully Thursday, December 3, 2009, for the heaven she had so wanted to go to for the last nine years.

Born Thelda Cooley in Brush, Colorado, February 11, 1919, to parents Ruben Floyd Cooley and Hazel Chapman Cooley, she grew up in a family with six siblings. Lyle, Melvin, Ethel and Helen are deceased. Juanita and Dot live in Colorado. Along with her family, she worked hard in the orchards and hay fields on a farm outside of Penrose, Colorado.

Thelda married Albert Prather (d. 2000) January 14, 1946. Shortly thereafter the couple relocated to Wheatland, Wyoming where they remained for the balance of their lives. Although she had no biological children, the couple raised two sons: Wayne Prather (Connie) of Cheyenne and Richard Prather (Sondra) of Lockhart, Texas. She also had three grandchildren--Terry, Regina, and Betty, and eight great-grandchildren.

Thelda spent many long hours cleaning at the hospital and for local doctors as well as cooking for hands on various ranches around the area where her husband worked. Looking at her worn hands, the years of mopping floors and kneading bread were evident. There was never a task too menial or a need too great that she left for someone else to fill. It was not unusual for a load of wood to appear in the yard of someone lacking physical warmth, a dinner supplied when illness struck or babysitting offered when a mother needed a helping hand. She did whatever she could do and asked nothing in return.

Thelda loved her God, her family and her church family. In the latter years she often griped at God for leaving her here on Earth. She looked forward to being free of pain and heartache and knew that there was a much better place awaiting her.

This wonderful lady has baked her last batch of cinnamon rolls, for us anyway. Perhaps God's enjoying them now.