

## RHEA ROBERTS GOODRICH OBITUARY



*Transcribed from the Vernal Express, March 25, 2009 edition  
By Rhonda Thacker Holton*

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Rhea Roberts Goodrich, 84, died March 18 in an automobile accident in Twin Falls County, Idaho.

She was born July 4, 1924, in Red Mesa, Laplata County, Colo, to Louis Dermont Roberts and Winifred Louise Dean Roberts.

When Rhea was 5 months old, the family moved to the Uintah Basin, where she grew up on Mosby Mountain, Paradise, Leota, and then in Vernal in the old Reeder (or Meagher) home, which was torn down in 1996 to salvage the bricks for the Vernal LDS Temple fence.

Rhea taught herself reading and arithmetic by listening to her older sister, Florence, and thus found herself in school with kids two years older than she. She entered high school at 12 and graduated with honors at age 16. She then went to Heneger Business College and then a year at BYU.

She worked for a year as a bookkeeper at the Kraft Cheese Co. and then went back to work for the Meaghers at the Bank of Vernal (Zions Bank). On May 3, 1944, she married Lowe Goodrich in the Salt Lake City LDS Temple. She worked many years at the Standard Saddle Tree Co. in Vernal.

Lowe and Rhea filled an LDS mission to the Ute Indian Randlett Branch from 1969-71 and also filled a mission on the Pineridge Souix Indian reservation in South Dakota in 1983, the same mission to which her father had served in 1912. They moved from Naples to Oakley, Idaho, in 1981. Lowe died of Lou Gehrig's disease on Aug. 20, 1987. Rhea then served another mission on the Navajo Indian Reservation in New Mexico and Arizona. She spent the last 20 years of her life doing geneology and temple work and traveling to visit her children and grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Frank Homer and Karl David; and sister, Margaret Joyce Caldwell.

She is survived by sisters, Florence Louise Stadstad, Orem, Mary Lou Blackham, Pleasant Grove, Utah, Edna May Bingham, Mesa, Ariz., and Ruth Petersen, Payson, Utah; brothers, Louis Dark, Pleasant Valley, Utah, Dean Dermont, Bluebell, Utah, Lowell Pratt, Roosevelt, and Wilford Harry (Bill), Provo; children, Robert Lowe, Santa Clarita, Calif., Byron Dark and Sidney, both of Rainier, Ore, Claudia Woodhouse, Oakley, Idaho, Coray Roberts, Vernal, Mary Ruth Searle, Vernal, Clyde, Burley, Idaho, and John, Mountain Home, Idaho; 35 grandchildren; and 62 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held March 23 at the Oakley, Idaho, LDS Church.

Burial was at the Vernal Memorial Park, with a graveside service noon, March 27.

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[Return to Goodrich Family Organization Home Page](#)