

## Carmen Garner



Longtime Anchorage resident Carmen Garner, 86, died Nov. 20, 2010, at Providence Medical Center after a brief illness.

Friends and family are invited to remember Carmela at Evergreen Memorial Chapel 4-6 p.m. Thursday.

She was born July 15, 1924, in Wassher, Kan., to Italian immigrants Sam Smallo and Zelinda (Selle) Smallo.

The family soon moved to Dawson, N.M., a multi-ethnic company town where her father mined coal for the Phelps Dodge Corp. Dawson was a close-knit community tucked away in the Sangre de Cristo mountains that provided a healthy environment for a young family. Friendships that lasted lifetimes were made in that hamlet.

After high school, Carmen followed her sister to Casper, Wyo., and then, in 1950, to Alaska, where she lived for most of the next 60 years.

In Anchorage she met and married Don Garner and raised three children. While caring for a family, Carmen also worked as a bookkeeper for for several businesses, among which were National Bank of Alaska, Anchorage Cold Storage, Anchorage Plumbing & Heating and finally Denali Fuel Co.

The kitchen was the center of activity in the Garner home. Carmen cooked while people would saunter through ,sampling, conversing and laughing. To be a good cook must be genetic, the family said: Not only was Carmen an outstanding culinary artist, but so were her sister and mother. Whether preparing a holiday meal or a Sunday Italian feast, the three of them always outdid themselves.

Carmen was preceded in death by her mother and father; brother, Sam Smallo Jr.; and sister, Josephine (Dean) Alsobrook.

She is survived by her son, Larry Garner (Sue); daughter, Carol Bustamante (John Cronin); daughter, Gina Perez (Gilbert); 12 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; and many other family and friends who loved her.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Raton Museum, 108 S. Second St., Raton, NM 87740.

Source: Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage, Alaska, December 3, 2010