Virginia Schweigert celebrates 90th birthday

Family and friends gathered recently in Grand Forks to celebrate Virginia Schweigert’s 90th birthday. Virginia was born the daughter of Emma Brandner on Jan. 26, 1928 and was raised on her grandparent’s farm 10 miles north of Zeeland, surrounded and spoiled by her 12 aunts and uncles. She moved into Zeeland in 1942 to attend high school and graduated as Valedictorian in the Class of 1946. Her mother passed away in 1945.

Following high school graduation, she put herself through college and graduated with a teacher’s certificate from Ellendale Normal School in 1948. She taught country school in a one-room school house in the Zeeland area for many years. In 1945, she bought a brand new Plymouth coupe to get her to work and home. It was in that same 49 Plymouth that son Mahlon was delivered in August 1958 when he decided to come early on the way to the Linton Hospital.

Virginia held onto her first car for many years before selling it to a collector in the 90s. Virginia later taught reading, math and directed studies in a teacher’s aide at Zeeland Public School until her retirement in the mid-1990s. She is proud of her students and often talks about the multiple generations of Zeeland families she taught.

Virginia and her husband Clarence were married in 1955 and raised six sons. Clarence passed away in August 2000.

Virginia currently resides at Valley Eldercare Center in Grand Forks.

Virginia Schweigert is pictured at her birthday party with her sons. Back row, left to right, Kyle "Bubba" and Lowell, both of Grand Forks, Mahlon of Hettinger and Shannon, of West Fargo; front row, Keith of Fargo and Kent of Bismarck.

Virginia (seated) has 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Those in attendance in Grand Forks for the birthday party are, back row, left to right, Shelby and Andrew Schweigert of Fargo, Alex Schweigert of Grand Forks, Sarah Schweigert of Fargo, Helen and Casey Hutton of Grand Forks and Alison Schweigert and fiancé, Adam Dewy, both of Fargo; front row, Ginny Hutton, Wyatt Hutton and Cooper Schweigert, all of Grand Forks.