

In Loving Memory

Norma Jean Nelson Duppler

Born

August 18, 1951 Valley City, North Dakota



Norma was raised on the family farm 12 miles south of Valley City & attended the nearby Ellis Nelson Elementary School. She went to High School at Kathryn for two years before transferring to Oak Grove High School, where she graduated as *Valedictorian* in 1969. She attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, where she graduated, *summa cum laude* in 1973, with majors in Spanish & English & a minor in Biology.

Norma married Alan Duppler on Feb. 24, 1973. The couple made their home north of Grand Forks while Alan attended law school. Norma taught school at Midway High School. After Alan's graduation they moved to Devils Lake, where Norma taught at the school for the Deaf.

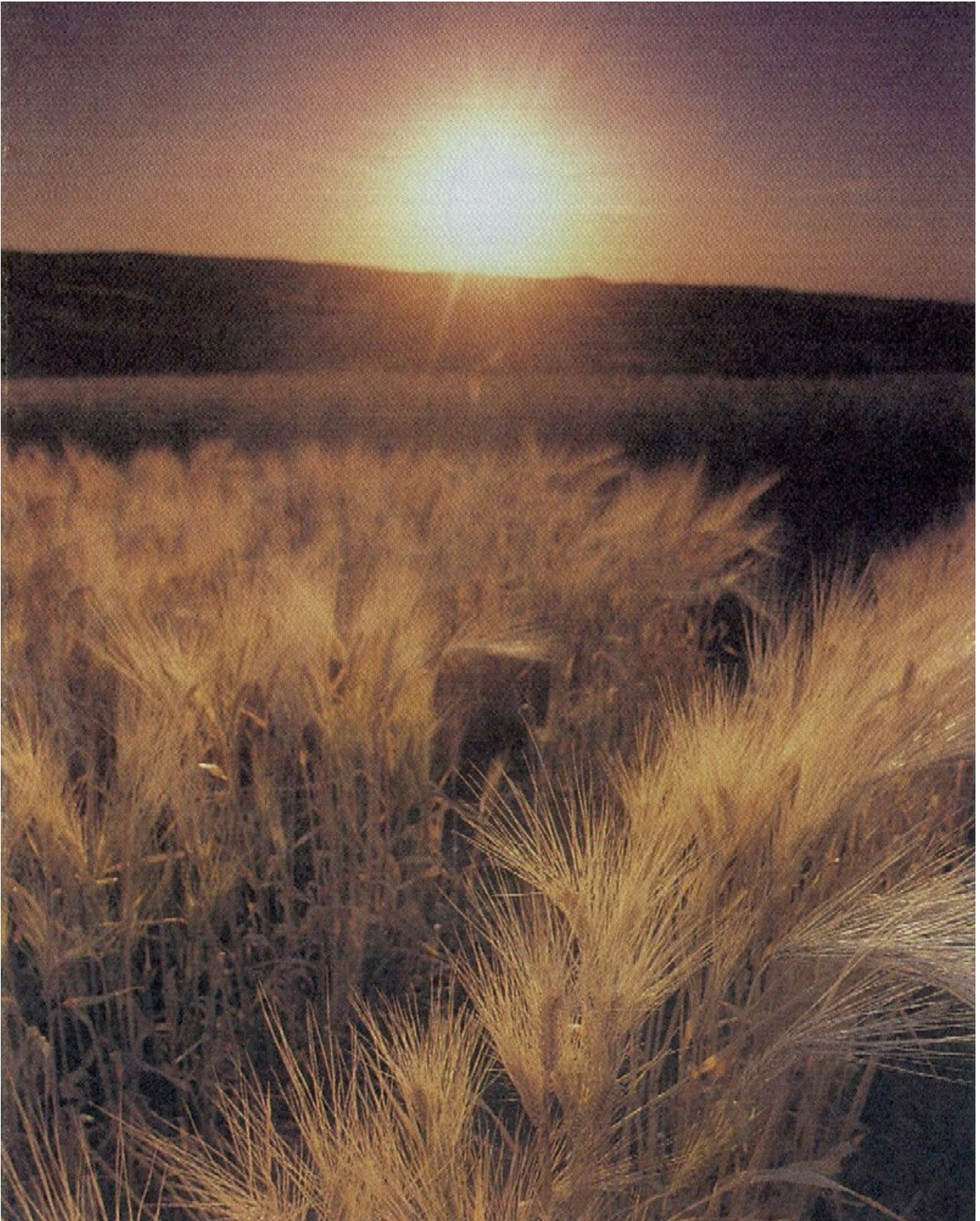
In 1981, they moved to Mercer County, & first made their home in Stanton, & subsequently in Hazen. Norma worked first as a stringer & then as a correspondent for the *Bismarck Tribune*. In 1991, they moved back to the family farm south of Valley City. For a year, Norma did double duty, teaching at North Central High School & serving, part time, as the Barnes County Emergency Manager. She took over that job, full time, in the summer of 1992, & served in that position ever since.

As the Barnes County Emergency Manager, Norma received numerous citations & awards-several of them national in scope. She was responsible for obtaining, literally, hundreds of thousands of dollars in Federal grants, benefiting numerous local fire & police departments, the Barnes County Sheriff's Department, as well as other emergency responders.

Norma was a prolific jewelry maker & crafter. Her specialty was making beaded necklaces & bracelets. She loved the farm where she lived & spent countless hours exploring the pastures on her four-wheeler. She discovered a Native American stone calendar (medicine wheel) on one of the hills & delighted in showing it to archaeologists, & anyone else who asked to see it. Norma began painting when she was 12 years old, & became quite skilled in oils. She had several one-person shows in the region.

Died

January 12, 2006 Valley City, North Dakota



My Farm

**My Farm to me is not just land
Where bare unpainted buildings stand--
To me, my farm is nothing less
Than all created loveliness.**

**My farm is not where I must soil
My hands in endless dreary toil
But where, through seed and swelling pod
I've learned to walk, and talk with God.**

**My farm to me, is not a place
Outmoded by the modern race
For here, I think, I just see less
Of evil, greed, and selfishness.**

**My farm's a haven--here dwells rest,
Security and happiness--
Whate'er befalls the world outside
Here faith and hope and love abide.**

**And so my farm is not just land
Where bare unpainted buildings stand--
To me, my farm is nothing less
Than all God's hoarded loveliness.**