



Elnora Mae Christiansen

February 14, 1945 - September 1, 2026

Ogden, Utah

Elnora Mae Christiansen died in Ogden on September 1, 2026. She was eighty-one. Born there on February 14, 1945, she grew up knowing the yards as a clock and a weather report. Her father worked a switch. Elnora learned that a waybill is a promise: it holds, or the whole story comes apart in the dark.

For thirty-six years she was a clerk in a commissary that did not look like the brochures. She arrived early. She did not advertise. Agents called her because she would write up a bad car even when the train was already called. She charged a fair hour on the side when a church van needed a lift more than a sermon. She kept a notebook of trains, not clients. The notebook had grease on the edges.

She married Grant Christiansen in 1965. They raised three children in a frame house that needed a new porch every twenty years. Grant kept the garden and the choir. Elnora grilled on Sundays and considered a plate of smoked chicken a seasonal obligation. After her knees quit the worst platforms she still came out for a favorite string of hoppers, moving slower, doing the same honest work.

Friends remember a woman who left a desk cleaner than she found it, who could stand in a noise without making it a personality, and who loved the river at evening. She died in Ogden, in the city whose yards had written her calendar. The hump still works. Someone else will hear the knock that means trouble.

Services

Visitation in Ogden, then a simple service. A gift to a rail-workers' assistance fund or a neighborhood pantry is welcome.

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