Written History of Virginia Fern Janzen (Koch)

Virginia Fern Janzen was born on March 19, 1919 to Fred and Hulda (Seibel) Janzen in Fairview, Oklahoma and was the second of five children. Her family settled in Beaver County in 1929 and settled on a farm 17 miles southwest of Beaver in the Anthony community. She attended grades 1 through4 in Golden Valley, a one room school west of Fairview. She then attended grades 5 through 8 in their new area of Anthony community. She recalled that she only had three flour sack dresses growing up as well as her and her siblings being called “dirty Dutch” when starting a new school. She attended all four years of High School at Beaver and graduated in 1940. She got her first car from a Doctor at Beaver but didn’t know how to drive as she was scared of her dad’s first car in the past. Virginia then attended Junior College and Allen Memorial Hospital School of Nursing School in El Dorado, Kansas which was affiliated with Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. She was there for 3 months training in pediatric nursing. She shared her suitcase to sit on when coming home from nursing school on a bus with a soldier. The nursing school was also affiliated with the State Hospital in Pueblo, Colorado where she moved to train there for three months in mental health. Virginia graduated college and received her Registered Nursing Degree in January of 1945. Virginia then worked for Beaver Hospital for a year, and then went to Dallas to take a Post Graduate course in operation room technique at Baylor Hospital.

After graduating, she worked at Beaver Oklahoma Hospital, Sanford Hospital in Perryton, and finally in the Canadian Hospital, where she met Salamo Koch. After getting married, they made their home in Darrouzett, Texas where Virginia was a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and the American Legion Auxiliary Kiowa Post 635. In 1957, she took the position of school nurse for the four schools in Lipscomb County retiring from that position after 27 years of service in 1984.

She and Salamo had one daughter, Sally Ann whom would pass away September 29th, 2015 of cancer. Salamo passed away on April 4th, 1989. After her daughter’s passing she moved into an apartment in Perryton in October 2015. She’s taken many bus tour vacations with other local ladies; she hand makes quilts, and even helped with the German Festival, Detaches Fest. Her good friend, Palma Koschke, who lives at the Seasons along with Virginia. They both grew up in Beaver County and went to school there; both married Darrouzett men and quilted together over the years. Both only had one child, and both children passed.