

Obituary for Laura Palenske Stella

This is an obituary from the Alma Signal-Enterprise newspaper, noting the death of Laura Palenske Stella in California in 1989. Laura was the daughter of Louis and Emma Palenske of Alma, Kansas. Funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission through the Kansas State Historical Records Advisory Board.

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LAURA PALENSKE STELLA

Laura Palenske Stella was born August 17, 1901 in Alma, Kansas and died June 28, 1989 in Fullerton, California. Her parents were the L. Palenskies, well-known pioneer family in Alma. The Palenske family had nine children; now only one remaining, Florence Palenske Hallgren, of Omaha, Nebraska.

Laura married Basil Stella, an Italian immigrant, in 1919. He was a U.S. veteran of World War I. They had six children, five of whom survive: William and Fred of Texas, Marie Burrell of Vincentown, N.J., Rita Faulders of Camarillo, California, and Florence (Mitzi) Demman, Fullerton, California. Basil Stella died in 1977. Laura was buried in Omaha, Nebraska with full Catholic rites.

Laura returned to her home town of Alma almost every year to visit friends and relatives and to attend her Alma High School class reunions. She was especially concerned with the County Historical Society, which her brother, Fred Palenske, had endowed. She was a dedicated wife and mother and never ceased to be interested in Alma and its life and history, and could tell many fascinating tales of her youth here. She lived life to its fullest and died in the Catholic faith which she embraced in 1923.