

Verleen Benton, 68

Feb. 26, 1936 - Oct. 14, 2004

AUDUBON — Verleen J. "Blondie" Benton, was born Feb. 26, 1936, to Sigurd M. and Thomine Clausen Christensen in Audubon. She grew up on the family farm and attended Jackson No. 1 rural school. She attended Harlan High School, graduating with the class of 1954. Upon graduation, she went to California and worked the summer at Midwest Bag Company. She returned to Iowa and attended A.I.B. Business School in Des Moines. After business school, she returned to California and worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She transferred to the Omaha Branch of Corps of Engineers and later went to work for Ray Buman Bookkeeping in Harlan.

March 18, 1960, Verleen married Darrell Benton. Four children were born to this union. The marriage ended December 1972. Oct. 1, 1973, she was employed at Audubon Oil Company, Inc. She was employed there for 30 years until forced to retire for health reasons. She died Oct. 14, 2004, at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, at age 68.

Verleen was preceded in death by her grandson, Hunter Lee Logan; her parents; and several aunts and uncles. Survivors include her children, Jeff Benton of Audubon; Eric (Trudy) Benton of Manning; Mike (Lisa) Benton of Van Meter; Lori (Bill) Graves of Guthrie Center; her grandchildren, Marcus, Spencer and Isaac Benton of Van Meter; Kelly and Joni Benton of Brayton; Remington Logan of Guthrie Center; Brenten Graves of Des Moines; Brandon and McKenzie Bruch of Templeton; four brothers, Glen (Dorit) Christensen of Svendborg, Denmark; Jerald (Connie) Christensen of Harlan; David (Marilee) Christensen of Harlan and Robert Christensen of Manning; and other relatives.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Bradley Ketcham Oct. 18, 2004, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Audubon. Burial was in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Kimballton. Honorary casket bearers were Joni Benton, Kelly Benton, Marcus Benton, Spencer Benton, Isaac Benton, Remington Logan, Brenten Graves, Brandon Bruch, McKenzie Bruch, close relatives and friends. Casket bearers were Arlan Christensen, Jarrod Christensen, Kevin Christensen, David Christensen, Lucas Christensen and Steve Andersen. Kessler Funeral Home in Audubon, in charge of arrangements.