

Edna Ellis, 80 ✓

Aug. 17, 1916 - July 20, 1997

CO. BLUFFS - Edna Ella Annie Ellis was born on a farm in Fairview Township, Shelby County, Aug. 17, 1916, daughter of Henry and Hattie Holtz Krohn, and was one of three children in the family. She was baptized and confirmed in 1931. Their father died when Edna was 4 years old.

She married James B. Ellis Feb. 7, 1937. They were the parents of two children, James B. Krohn Ellis, who died at birth, and a daughter, Susan. She traveled with her husband for many years while he was a musician with different bands. Later, after Susan was born, they managed a cafe in Ida Grove. They moved to Co. Bluffs, and she worked for many years at the Fontinelle Hotel in Omaha, NE, Jennie Edmundson Hospital, Howard Johnson Restaurant and Phillips Department Store, all in Co. Bluffs. James died April 9, 1995. She was Avoca's first Miss Avoca and was entered in the Miss America Contest in 1936 in Des Moines. She was a member of Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Co. Bluffs. She died July 20, 1997, at the Nebraska Methodist Hospital in Omaha, at age 80 years, 11 months and three days.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, James; her son, James; a sister, Elsie Oehlertz, and a brother, Willie "Bill" Krohn. She is survived by her daughter, Susan (Milton) Exline of Iowa City; three grandchildren, David Exline (Kelly); Laurie (Todd) Baumgartner and Bradley Exline; one great grandson, James Exline; two sisters-in-law, Ida Ellis of Fayetteville, AR and Mary Ellis of Arkadelphia, AR; one aunt, Alvina Peters of Avoca; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held July 24, 1997, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Avoca, with Pastor Duane Anunson and Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Honorary casket bearers were John Oehlertz, Herbert Holtz, Ronald Peters, Allen Peters, Jack Peters, Clarence Holtz, Gilbert Klindt, Darrell Dreager, Joseph Houser, Robert Langer, Lyle Peters, Vernus Peters, Freddie Holtz and Patrick Holtz. Casket bearers were Brad Mehsling, Mark Dreager, Ron Mehsling, Delno Holtz, Raymond Holtz and Clyde Peters. Burial in Graceland Cemetery. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.