

Helga Gregersen, 68

Dec. 15, 1935 - Dec. 15, 2003

WALNUT – Helga (Terry) Therasia Beck Gregersen was born Dec. 15, 1935, in Ingolstat, Germany, the daughter of Joseph and Katherine (Gramuller) Beck. Helga and her family withstood the allied bombing of World War II as she grew up and finished school. She came to America in 1959, and settled in Atlantic. Though she couldn't speak English, she got a job and made a living. She worked several places before being employed at Walnut Grove Feeds Laboratory, where she was a senior lab technician. She worked there until 1977.

Helga married Bernal Gregersen May 4, 1973, at the family farm near Walnut. The couple lived in Atlantic for several years before moving to the family farm when Bernal's father died in 1976. The couple farmed until their retirement in 1995. Helga had many illnesses over the years, and contracted cancer in 2002. Helga was a member of the Elk Horn Lutheran Church. She taught herself to read and write English, and she was very proud to have become a United States citizen. Helga died on her 68th birthday, Dec. 15, 2003, at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE.

Helga's parents preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband, Bernal Gregersen of Walnut; one son, Richard (Cheryl) Gregersen of Pahrump, NV; one sister, Rosemarie (Guenther) Ciupek of Rohr, Germany; one brother, Joseph (Traudel) Beck of Ingolstat, Germany; three grandsons, Greg Gregersen, Joshua Gregersen and Seth Gregersen, all of Pahrump, NV; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 19, 2003, at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church with Pastor Steven Gronseth officiating. Honorary casket bearers were Rolfe Stierle, Scott Young, Kevin Schlake, Jim Schmidt, Alan Gregersen and Cory Gregersen. Casket bearers were Scott Beier, Michael Beier, Jeffrey Beier, Mark Gregersen, Craig Gregersen and Terry Gregersen. Burial was in the Elk Horn Cemetery. The Burmeister-Johannson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.