

Aletha Hansen, 79

March 24, 1924 - Dec. 11, 2003

KIMBALLTON – Aletha Johanna, daughter of Lars and Anna (Madsen) Nelson, was born March 24, 1924, near Exira. She attended rural school near her home and then graduated from Exira High School in 1941, where she took Normal Training. Following her graduation, she taught country school near Elk Horn before her marriage.

Feb. 27, 1944, Aletha married Orville James Hansen at the old Lutheran Church in Harlan. Four children were born to this union. They lived on a farm west of Kimballton all their lives. Throughout the years, she did a lot of sewing making various kitchen crafts, including potholders and casserole carriers. She attended craft fairs for 33 years. Even though she was a busy homemaker, she attended summer school early in her marriage at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake to renew her teaching certificate. Aletha was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rural Teacher's Association and the Friendly Neighborhood Club. After the death of her husband, Orville J. Hansen, April 3, 1997, she remained in their home on the farm. However, when her health began to fail in 2002, she moved from the farm to live with her daughters. Early in December of 2003 she entered Creighton Medical Center, Omaha, NE, where she died Dec. 11, 2003, at age 79 years.



Preceding Aletha in death were her parents, husband and three brothers, twins Herman and Harvey Nelson, and Raymond Nelson. She is survived by her four children, Kenneth Hansen (Barbara) of Kimballton; Donna Hansen of Elk Horn; Judy (Jack) Ploen of Walnut; and Annette (Rolando) Santisteban of Elk Horn; nine grandchildren, Troy Hansen (Cammy), Angelia (Brian) Petersen, Anna Santisteban, Maria Santisteban, Antonio Santisteban, James Ploen, Jennifer Ploen, Jessica Ploen and Jared Ploen; four great grandchildren, McKenzie and Tyler Hansen and Travis and Justin Petersen; brother, Leonard Nelson of Elk Horn, and sister, Diana Greer of Harlan; and nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 15, 2003, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton, with Pastor John Swenson officiating. Burial was in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Bruce Nelson, LaVerne Nelson, Lynn Nelson and David Greer. Casket bearers were Steve Nelson, Ron Nelson, Dan Greer, Denny Nelson, Gary Greer and Mike Rasmussen. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.