

Ethel Kragelund, 86

Jan. 4, 1917 - March 17, 2003

ELK HORN – Ethel Christena, daughter of J. Chris and Mary (Christensen) Johnson, was born Jan. 4, 1917, on a farm near Exira. She attended rural school near her home and then graduated from Exira High School. She worked in the Exira Creamery for several years following high school.

Jan. 5, 1937, she married Leo H. Kragelund at Exira. One daughter (Felistis) Colleen, was born to this union. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Elk Horn where, in 1955, Ethel started working at the Elk Horn School serving hot lunches for 15 years. Due to brain surgery in 1972 she was no longer able to work out of the home. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church where she had worshipped faithfully since 1936 and was a member of the Missionary Circle and Bible Study Group. Due to failing health, Ethel and Leo became residents of Salem Lutheran Homes. Leo died Feb. 6, 2003. She died shortly thereafter March 17, 2003, at Cass County Memorial Hospital at age 86 years.

Preceding Ethel in death were her husband, Leo H. Kragelund; daughter, Colleen K. Benson; and her parents. Ethel is survived by her sister, Valonda (Edward) Nelson of Exira; two granddaughters, Jill (Trent) Henson of Houston, TX and Sarah Zabriskie of Monrovia, CA; two great grandchildren, Nathaniel and Alexis; son-in-law, Jack Benson of Azusa, CA; aunt, Ellen Johnson of Washington, IA; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 20, 2003, at the Elk Horn Baptist Church with Rev. Don Hoover officiating. Burial was in the Oakfield Baptist Cemetery southeast of Elk Horn. Casket bearers were Randy Leete, Mike Gibson, Rick Anderson, Kevin Petersen, Brian Gibson and Charlie Christensen. Ohde Funeral Home, Kimballton, in charge of arrangements.