

Helga Leistad Lange, 97

May 16, 1903 - Oct. 21, 2000

ELK HORN - Helga, daughter of Anders and Laura Bellsness Leistad, was born May 16, 1903, in Trondheim, Norway. She attended school in Trondheim, and at age 19 emigrated from Norway to Elk Horn, to the home of her uncle, John Leistad. She soon began working in the home of Christian and Sarah Lange.

March 25, 1925, she married their son, Andrew Christian Lange in Elk Horn. Six children were born to this union. Helga and Andrew farmed in Shelby and Audubon Counties. In 1949, they moved near Quasqueton where they farmed in Buchanan County. After Andrew died in 1959, Helga remained at Quasqueton for two more years. In 1961, she returned to Elk Horn, and worked at Salem Lutheran Homes for many years. She became a resident of Salem Lutheran Homes in 1989. She was a member of the Elk Horn Lutheran Church. She died Oct. 21, 2000, at Salem Lutheran Homes in Elk Horn, following a lengthy illness at age 97 years, five months and four days of age.

Besides her parents and husband, she is preceded in death by her son, Jack Donald Lange (Helga); a son-in-law, Elvin Holtz; a great granddaughter, Gretchen Mace; two sisters, Ragna (Eric) Beckstrom and Lilly (Einar) Ronning; two brothers, Arnie Leistad (Astrid) and Einar Leistad (Marie). She is survived by her five children, Vera Holtz of Independence; Norma (Richard) Nelson of Elk Horn; Russell Lange (Joan) of Elk Horn; Carolyn (Joe) Mason of White Lake, MI and Mark Lange and special friend, Julie Vaughn of Columbia, MO; 18 grandchildren, Sheryl Holtz Mace; Steven and Andrew Holtz; Julie Nelson Hansen; Ned and Natalie Nelson; Michael, Charles and Curtis Lange; Janet Lange Hoefler; Tim and Bruce Lange; Lori Lange Maas; Nichole and Aaron Mason; Brigitte Lange Rogers and Creed and Mac Lange; 26 great grandchildren; five great great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 24, 2000, at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church with Pastor Michael Williams and Celeste Waymire, AIM officiating. Burial was in the Elk Horn Lutheran Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Andrew Holtz, Natalie Nelson, Curt Lange, Nicole Mason, Sheryl Mace, Bruce Lange, Charles Lange, Brigitte Rogers, Julie Hansen, Lori Maas, Janet Hoefler and Mac Lange. Casket bearers were Steven Holtz, Michael Lange, Ned Nelson, Creed Lange, Tim Lange and Aaron Mason. Ohde Funeral Home, Kimballton, in charge of arrangements.