

Bernice Lorenzen, 91



March 8, 1914 - April 21, 2005

AVOCA — Wilma Bernice Lorenzen, daughter of William E. and Nellie B. Guernsey Pritchard, was born March 8, 1914, on a farm near Avoca. Bernice attended Avoca school and was a member of the graduating class of 1934.

Bernice married Gerald George Lorenzen Sept. 8, 1934. They were the parents of two sons, Gary and Dennis. After their marriage, Gerald and Bernice started farming in 1934 and Gerald engaged in local trucking. In 1945, they sold the trucks and moved to a farm north of Avoca and in 1959, they purchased a farm east of Avoca, where they farmed until 1975, when they built a home in Avoca and retired. They lived in Avoca until 1991 then moved to Peace Haven Retirement Home in Walnut. Due to health problems in 1992, they moved to Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn. Gerald died Dec. 28, 1994. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca, the Ladies Circle, the Garden Club and Corley Club. She died April 21, 2005, at Sunnyview Care Center in Ankeny, at age 91 years, one month and 13 days.

In addition to her parents, Bernice is preceded in death by her husband, Gerald, who died in 1994; her son, Dennis; and her sister, Francis Holtz. She is survived by her son, Gary Lorenzen (Ruth) of West Des Moines; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; sister, Phyllis Coe of Minneapolis, MN; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 26, 2005, at the Pauley Jones Funeral Home, Avoca Chapel, with Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Casket bearers were Liz Wilden, Debbie Merlo, Margaret DeLay, Kathy Mae Kinnon, Katie Lorenzen, Greg Lorenzen and Nate Lorenzen.