Hulda Martens, 93
Feb. 13, 1903 - April 3, 1996

TACOMA, WA - Hulda Martens, the eldest of 10 children, was born Feb. 13, 1903 in Persia to German Immigrants Marcus and Emma Bredenkamp Martens. At age 15, due to her father's health she moved with her family to Texas. Her mother died the following Jan. during an influenza epidemic, leaving her to mother her seven brothers and sisters. The family returned to Iowa where her father died. One by one, members of the family began moving to Alaska in 1932. In 1935 her brother Henry's wife, Evelyn, died leaving four more children for her to mother. She, her brother and the four children arrived in Anchorage in 1944. She worked part time in Anchorage women's clothing stores and eventually bought a shop she called Mona Lee's. She later sold it and purchased Theresa's Apparel, which she ran until retiring in 1971. She was a member of the Pioneers of Alaska and when she was able, was active in Anchorage Lutheran Church, where she was a member for 52 years. She died April 3, 1996 at Tacoma Lutheran Home and Retirement Center in Tacoma, WA.

She was preceded in death by her sisters, Sidonia Gill and twins, Alma and Wilma, and four brothers, Henry, Leonard, Arnold and Lawrence. She is survived by her sister, Lorraine; brother, Wallace (Lee) and two sisters-in-laws, Betty and Pauline Martens, all of Anchorage; nieces and nephews; 26 great nieces and great nephews and ten great great nieces and great great nephews.

A memorial service was held April 9, 1996 at Anchorage Lutheran Church with Rev. Roland Fritz officiating. Burial will be held at a later date in the pioneer section of Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery.