

Grace Mardesen, 96

April 10, 1910 - Dec. 10, 2006

ELK HORN — Mary Grace, daughter of Pete and Emma (Erickson) Pedersen, was born April 10, 1910, near Gates in Audubon County. She lived on the farm with her family, attended Gates country school and then attended Atlantic High School, graduating with the class of 1928. After completing her education, she worked for Dr. Jones in Atlantic.

Nov. 29, 1933, Grace married Vernon Mardesen at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Atlantic. Three children were born to this union. While farming near Elk Horn and Brayton they were members of Oak Hill Lutheran Church west of Brayton where Grace was baptized and confirmed. In the late 1940s, Grace and Vernon settled on their farm west of Elk Horn and shortly thereafter joined the Elk Horn Lutheran Church. She taught Sunday School at both churches. They retired from farming in 1974 and moved into their home in Elk Horn. Grace was a member of Jolly Homemakers Club and was active in her church. In her spare time, she made jewelry out of buttons. After the death of her husband, Vernon, in 1996, Grace became a resident of Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn. She died there Dec. 10, 2006, at age 96 years and eight months.

Preceding Grace in death are her parents; husband; two sisters, Vera Pedersen and Gladys Reich; and two brothers, Nels Pedersen and Lester Pedersen. She is survived by her three children, Darrell Mardesen (Sue) of Elk Horn; Sharon (Richard) Nelson of Omaha, NE; and Richard Mardesen (Sara) of Elk Horn; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Ethel Mardesen of Exira; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 13, 2006, at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church with Rev. Keith Andrew Menter and Pastor Stephen Gronseth officiating. Burial was in the Elk Horn Lutheran Cemetery with Richard Nelson, Robert Nelson, Adam Mardesen, Heath Mardesen, Gene Mardesen and Tom Boyd casket bearers. Ohde Funeral Home in Kimballton in charge of arrangements.