

Amanda Martens, 91

Jan. 9, 1912 - March 26, 2003

MANNING – Amanda Christina, daughter of Hugo A. and Anna M. (Waller) Grau, was born Jan. 9, 1912, in Audubon County. She attended rural schools in Audubon County, north of Manning, and near Aspinwall until 1924 when her family moved to Manilla where she completed her schooling. Amanda then worked for Dr. Soe in Manilla and various other places.

April 20, 1934, she married Walter Martens at the Lutheran Church in Denison. They farmed the Martens home place north of Manning until 1966 when they moved to Manning. Three children were born to this union. During World War II, Amanda worked for Priebe and Sons Hatchery in Manning. When the Manning Plaza opened, she worked there as a cook. She then worked at Garst and Thomas Seed Corn Company in Coon Rapids for a couple of years before beginning to work at the Manning Senior Citizen Center in 1979 where she continued to work part-time for many years. Her husband died July 31, 1979. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Manning and American Legion Auxiliary and VFW Auxiliary. She entered the Manning Plaza Nursing Home in August of 2002, where she died March 26, 2003, at age 91 years, two months and 17 days.

Preceding Amanda in death are her parents; husband; daughter, Lorraine Slechta, in 1998; grandson, Royce Slechta, in 1984 and two brothers and sisters-in-law, Walter Grau and wife, Helen, and Hugo Grau and wife, Janola. She is survived by her two children, Sherril Heller of Audubon and Dean Martens (Judi) of Pleasant Hill; eight grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; son-in-law, Larry Slechta of Denison; brother, Ralph Grau (Theresa) of Stockton, CA; two sisters, Bernice Crouch of Irwin and Edna Mitzel and special friend, Virgil Boysen of Manilla; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 29, 2003, at the Zion Lutheran Church, Manning, with Pastor Daniel Vogel officiating. Burial was in the Manning Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Shawna and Jamey Barnett and Sr. Amn. Matt Grimes. Casket bearers were Rick Slechta, Mike Heller, Ron Slechta, Kurt Heller, Rodney Slechta and James Grimes. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.