

Helen Plahn, 83

July 23, 1919 - March 18, 2003

AVOCA – Helen Edith Marie Plahn was born July 23, 1919, in rural Hancock, the daughter of Fred and Emma Ratajesak Muschall and was one of three children in the family. She attended school until it was necessary for her to take care of her mother who was in poor health.

Helen married Bert Plahn in Neola, Feb. 22, 1941. They were the parents of three girls, Marlene, Kathleen and Carolyn. She served as a 4-H leader for 10 years and with the County Extension Council for four years. She was active in the Newton-Avoca Historical Society and the Knox Project Club. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and held offices in the ALCW. She moved to the Avoca Lodge Assisted Living in June of 2002. She died March 18, 2003, at the Avoca Lodge Assisted Living at age 83 years, seven months and 26 days.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bert; and brothers, Arthur and Carl Muschall. She is survived by her daughters, Marlene (Robert) Secrest of Lakewood, CO; Kathleen (Larry) Knudsen of Council Bluffs and Carolyn (Harley) Spencer of Avoca; her grandchildren, Tom and Jennifer Secrest Willoughby; Mike and Shannon Secrest Ortega; Tom and Emily Knudsen Gourlay; Allan Knudsen; Lori Spencer; Bridget Spencer and Clint and Angela Spencer; great grandchildren, Nicole, Brodie, Ashley, Jeremy, Justin, Harrison, Hannah, Libby and Jake; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 22, 2003, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca with Pastor Lou Hoger and Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in Graceland Cemetery. Casket bearers were Jennifer Willoughby, Emily Gourlay, Lori Spencer, Clint Spencer, Shannon Ortega, Allan Knudsen and Bridget Spencer. Pauley Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.