

## **Helen Rocksien, 84**

**March 29, 1911 - Oct. 20, 1995**

**Manilla** - Helen Rocksien, daughter of Frank and Anna (Huber) Miller, was born on a farm six miles south of Manilla March 29, 1911. She attended country school at Greeley Center #5 after which she attended high school in Defiance for 2 years, transferred to Harlan for 1 year to enable her to take Normal Training courses, then transferred to Manilla where Normal Training courses had been added to the curriculum. After graduating and being too young to teach, she went back to Manilla for business courses. She worked for her board and room in the home of Superintendent Fearing. She taught for 2 years at Greeley Center #5 to earn money for college. She attended Iowa State University at Ames for 2 years where she earned her way with scholarships and living in a cooperative dormitory and working in homes in the community.

Dec. 31, 1933 she married Lee C. Rocksien of Manning at her parent's home on the farm. They lived in Big Rapids, MI where he was a chemistry/pharmacy instructor at Ferris Institute. The following year, he went to work as a professional representative for E.R. Squibb Co. and they lived in Wichita, KS for several years before being transferred to Omaha for 2 more years. He went back into the teaching field in 1939 when he accepted a position at a university in Grand Rapids, MI. While living there, Susan and Daniel were born. When the war started, he went into the Army as a Lieutenant in Anti-Aircraft. The family lived in various army camps on the East Coast. The day before Lee was to leave for Burma, he was stricken with a heart attack. he survived for 3 months at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C. He died Dec. 4, 1944 at 36 years of age.

She and the children returned to Manilla where they lived with her parents for 7 years. Rosemary Helen was born five months after her father's death. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church where she was active as Sunday School teacher, choir member and church treasurer for many years. She was active in Band Mothers, an organization she chaired for two years, TB Christmas Seals drives and she handled the mailings and returns for the town of Manilla for many years and was county chairman for two years.

She took the town census and was the town assessor for several years. She also worked for the University of Michigan Research Center conducting surveys in IA, MO and NE. She purchased her present home in 1952 where she resided until her death. She had been in declining health over the last 10 years, having suffered from two heart attacks and emphysema. One of her dearest friends has been Joe Bullivant. In the last few years he has been a constant companion and caregiver, enabling her to remain at home. She died at Manning General Hospital Oct. 20, 1995 at age 84 years, 6 months and 21 days.

Besides her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by infant daughter, Gay of Wichita in 1936; daughter, Rosemary of Manilla in 1963; son, Dan (Rocky) of Manilla in 1992; brother, Donald of Harlan in 1970; sister, Faye of Seattle in 1987. Survivors include her daughter, Susan Wieland of Seattle; 3 grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren; sister, Eunice Fay of Canton, MN; sister, Lois Gilbertson (John) of Missoula, MT; nieces; nephews; friend, Joe Bullivant of Manning, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 24, 1995 at the First Presbyterian Church, Manilla with Reverend Kenneth Ritchie officiating. Burial was in the Manning City Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Mike Maar and Merlin Schmielau. Casket bearers were Mike Miller, Jim Benning, John Blom, Dave Miller, Mike Rasmussen and Bill Dickson. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.