

H-R 10/20/2003

Wilma J. Tharp



Wilma J. Tharp, 91, died Oct. 15 at her daughter Beverly Stratton's home in Marion.

Funeral services for Wilma Tharp were held at 2:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20, at the Trinity Lutheran Church near Malcom, with burial to follow at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery. The Rev. Herb Knudton officiated. Casket bearers included Don Cummings, Mike Cummings, Vicki Cummings, Barbara Dabner, Don Meade and Shawn Obert.

She was born to John and Mary Fogel Puls on June 12, 1912, in Malcom. She was raised on the family farm and educated at Malcom schools.

Following her education, she continued to work on the farm, doing many of her chores on horseback. She married Berle W. Tharp on Dec. 15, 1933, at her parents' home.

The couple had a daughter in 1936 and continued to farm in the Malcom, Rose Hill and Oskaloosa areas. They moved to Cedar Rapids in 1954, then to Marion in 1964, where she was a homemaker and caregiver.

Her grandchildren described her as one who defined unconditional love, and one who could never give them enough credit. She held a special love for her grandchildren, watching over them and enjoying every moment they spent together.

She was a member of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Marion for many years. She was known for her quilting talent, at one time assembling over 90 quilts with her mother to be sent overseas to aid the Lutheran World Relief program. She was also a good cook.

She is survived by her daughter; her grandchildren, Donald Cummings of Rifle, Colo., and Michael Cummings of Marion; her granddaughters, Barbara Dabner of Edwards, Colo., and Vickie Cummings of Marion; seven great-grandchildren; a special neighbor, Donna Weseman; and her friend and caregiver, Ruth Mick.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; and her brothers, Louis, John, Raymond and Jim.