Vera Jean Hokanson

Vera Jean Hokanson, 83, of Grinnell and formerly of Odebolt, Iowa died August 3, 2011, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell. All her friends and neighbors knew her as Jean.

Funeral services are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Friday, August 12, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Burial will be in Odebolt Cemetery in Odebolt.

Visitation will be held from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the Smith Funeral Home with the family present from 6:00 to 8:00 Thursday evening.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Grinnell Church of Christ, Grinnell Regional Hospice, Grinnell Regional Medical Center Emergency Room or St. Francis Manor Foundation.

Jean was born on December 15, 1927, in Coon Valley Township, in Sac County, the daughter of John and Roma Robson Covey. She was a 1945 graduate of Early High School.

After graduation she moved to Storm Lake and worked as a practical nurse in the Polk Hospital for 3 years.

On her 21st birthday, December 15, 1948, she was united in marriage to Rueben Hokanson, Jr. (also known to "friends" and neighbors as Junior), in the Methodist parsonage in Early. After a short wedding trip, the couple farmed south of Early before moving to Odebolt where they farmed for almost 34 years. Following Junior's death in October of 1982, she moved to Grinnell to be near her children and grandchildren.

Jean enjoyed working on the farm, cooking for family and friends. In her spare time she loved sewing, crocheting, knitting, ceramics and gardening. For the last 3 years she has been a resident of Seeland Park in Grinnell.

Survivors include three children, Bruce (Jennifer) Hokanson of Boerne, Texas; Sandra (Larry) Jones of Plano, Texas and Ann (Dennis) Snoek of Grinnell; seven grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; two sisters; and six sisters-in-law; one step-sister; one brother-in-law; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; one brother; three brothers-in-law; and a granddaughter.

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Jean enjoyed working on the farm, coffee time, cooking and entertaining family and friends. In her spare time, she loved sewing, ceramics, knitting and crocheting. For the last three years she has been a resident of Seeland Park in Grinnell.

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