

Esther Hildebrand, 90

MR
10/15/08



Esther Hildebrand, 90, of Grinnell, died on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008, at the Mayflower Health Care Center.

Her funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, at the United Methodist Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Len Eberhart, pastor of the church, officiating. Pat Saxton will be the organist and Barry Soukup will be the vocalist. Casket bearers will be members of the family.

A graveside service will follow at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, at the Jackson Township Cemetery in Montezuma.

The family will be present at the Smith Funeral Home from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell is in charge of the arrangements.

Esther was born on Aug. 21, 1918, in New Sharon, to Lee and Mary "Mamie" Williams McNeal. She was raised in New Sharon and graduated from New Sharon High School. After high school she received her normal training and taught at the Star Country School.

On Dec. 28, 1937, she was married to Leslie Hildebrand in Lancaster, Mo. The couple farmed near New Sharon

before moving to a farm near Barnes City. In 1960, the family moved to Montezuma and operated the Coast to Coast Store. Esther and Leslie moved to Grinnell in 1970 and she worked at the Burling Library on the Grinnell College campus.

Esther enjoyed reading, gardening, traveling and dancing. She was a member of the United Methodist Church, the Sunset Club, the Star Club and the Splash and Dash Club.

Survivors include her three daughters: Cheryl (Larry) Pitcher of Colorado Springs, Colo., Vicki (Dan) Bunnell of Grinnell; and Lezlie (Bob Melendy) Hildebrand of Tampa, Fla.; four grandchildren: Michelle Trulaske, Natasha Bunnell, and Laine and Danielle Melendy; five great-grandchildren: William, Marin and Jordan Pitchford and Steven and Kay Trulaske; one sister, Colleen Ferguson of New Sharon; and three brothers: Don McNeal of Santa Cruz, Calif., George McNeal of Los Gatos, Calif., and Jim McNeal of Show Low, Ariz.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; one grandson, Marc Bunnell; and one brother, Virgil McNeal; three sisters: Alvetta Dodd, Luverna Rice and Nellie Stanford.

Memorials may be directed to the American Alzheimer's Association or to the Mayflower Community.

CH Oct 20, 2008

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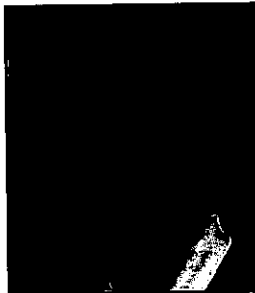
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