Velda L. Rutherford, 76, of Grinnell
died Wednesday, June 22, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell
A memorial service for Velda Rutherford will be held at 7 p.m. today
(Monday, June 27) at the Smith Fu-
nal Home in Grinnell with the Rev.
Len Eberhart officiating. Honorary
bearers will include her grandchildren.
Burial will be held privately before the
service at Pleasant Township Cem-
etery in Ewart.

A visitation will be held from 1 to 8
p.m. today at the Smith Funeral Home.
The family will be present from 5 to 7
p.m.

She was the daughter of Ralph Larsen
and Irene Murphy, born March 13,
1929, in Grinnell. She was raised and
educated in Grinnell and graduated
with GHS’s class of 1947.

She married Robert Martin Ruther-
ford on June 4, 1949, at her parent’s
home in Grinnell. The couple had four
children—Rebecca, Stephen, David
and Mark.

Her work life included stints at
Davidson’s clothing store in Grinnell
and the local Maid-Rite restaurant, plus
25 years at Spurgeon’s, a clothing and
general merchandise store. During her
years there, she was often referred to as
the “candy lady,” and always made
sure her grandchildren and friends were
supplied with candy.

She enjoyed reading, dancing, travel
and attending events in which her
grandchildren participated.

She is survived by her husband; her
children, Rebecca Edelen of Brooklyn
and Stephen Rutherford and Mark
Rutherford, both of Grinnell; nine
grandchildren; one great-grandchild; a
sister, Joanne Dimit of Grinnell, and
several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her
parents and her son, David.

Should friends desire, memorial con-
tributions may be directed to the
Alzheimer’s Association or to Dollars
for Scholars.
Velda L. Rutherford, 76

Velda L. Rutherford, 76, of Grinnell, died on Wednesday, June 22, 2005, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

A memorial was held at 7 p.m. Monday, June 27, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell, with the Rev. Len Eberhart officiating.

Honorary bearers were her grandchildren.

Inurnment was held privately at Pleasant Township Cemetery in Ewart before the service.

Velda, the daughter of Ralph Larsen and Irene Murphy, was born March 13, 1929, in Grinnell. She was raised and educated in Grinnell, and she graduated from Grinnell High School in 1947.

Velda married Robert Martin Rutherford on June 4, 1949, at her parents' home in Grinnell. The couple had four children: Rebecca, Stephen, David and Mark.

Velma was employed with Davidson's clothing store in Grinnell, the Grinnell Maid-Rite for several years, and at Spurgeon's clothing store for 25 years. During her association with Spurgeon's, Velda was often referred to as the "Candy Lady" since she made sure her grandchildren and their friends were supplied with candy.

Velda enjoyed reading, keeping everyone supplied with paperback books. She loved dancing, and she enjoyed modeling vintage clothing with Alice. She also enjoyed traveling and vacationing with Carroll and Carolyn. Velda and Bob rarely missed an event in which their grandchildren participated.

Velda is survived her husband, Bob, of Grinnell; her daughter, Rebecca (Joe) Edelen of Brooklyn; her son, Stephen (Pat) Rutherford of Grinnell; her son, Mark (Vickie) Rutherford of Grinnell; her grandchildren, Michael, Jonathan, Karin and Brian Edelen, and Sara, Amanda and Todd Rutherford, and Hollie and Nicholas Rutherford; her great-grandchild, Cameron Farmer; her sister, Joanne Dimit, of Grinnell; and several nieces and nephews.

Velda was preceded in death by her parents and her son, David.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or to Dollars for Scholars.

Condolences may be submitted to the Smith Funeral Home Web site at www.smithfh.com.