Esther Jansen, 89, Pella

Mrs. Esther Jansen, 89, of Pella, passed away May 10, 2006. Funeral services were held May 13, at the Second Christian Reformed Church in Pella. Interment was held at Oakwood Cemetery in Pella. Memorials can be given to the Pella Christian High School Endowment Fund or the Hospice of Pella Comfort House.

Esther Wichhart was born on May 5, 1917 at Pella. She was the ninth of 10 children that were born to the late William and Nellie Vos Wichhart. Esther attended country grade school near Pella.

On Sept. 11, 1937, she was united in marriage with Milton Arie Van Waardhuizen of Eddyville. They were married in Missouri and to this union four children were born: John William, Loretta Nell, Karen Diane and Charles Wayne. Esther and Milton lived all their married life in Pella. On Nov. 16, 1972, her husband Milton passed away at the age of 63 years. Following his death, Esther moved to an apartment and met her neighbor across the street, Jake Jansen, who had also lost his spouse and they became closer friends mutually sharing their grief and growing together in friendship. On June 14, 1975, they were united in marriage at the home of Esther’s son, John Van Waardhuizen, in Pella. Esther’s family and Jake’s six children: Joyce Geriene, Roger Laverne, Edwin Eugene, Duane Allen, Beverley Jean and Bryce Dean, became a blended family.


Of her original family Esther leaves just one brother, Marion Wichhart of Pella.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Milton Van Waardhuizen and Jake Jansen; her son, John W. Van Waardhuizen who died in 1984 at the age of 45 years; two granddaughters: Michelle Lee Van Waardhuizen in 1976 at the age of 6 years and Leslie Denise Jabai in 1984 at the age of 17 years; a stepson-in-law, Larry Kooistra on March 26, 2005 at the age of 70 years; a step-daughter-in-law, Karen (Duane) Jansen on July 19, 2005 at the age of 55 years; and an infant step-great-granddaughter, Kristen Marie Kooistra. In addition to her parents, William and Nellie Wichhart, Esther was preceded in death by the following sisters and brothers and their spouses: Elizabeth and Dingeman Verros, Marie and Ed Keuning, Nellie and Peter Boerijen, Wilma and Wm. Van Hal, Chris and Henrietta Wichhart, Adam and Jeanette Wichhart, Charles and Connie Wichhart and Catherine (Marion) Wichhart.