

Martha Oelke



Martha Jones Oelke, 98, of Grinnell died Thursday, June 29, 2006, at Mayflower where she had been a resident for over 30 years.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held Thursday, July 20, at 1:30 p.m. in the Carman Center at Mayflower.

She was born Oct. 31, 1907, in Atlantic City, N. J., and grew up in West Branch, Iowa. She attended high school at Westtown Quaker School in Pennsylvania, then graduated from Grinnell College after which she earned a master of science degree in chemistry from Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colo. She was married to Bill Oelke whom she had met in a chemistry laboratory at Grinnell College. They later moved back to Grinnell where her husband taught chemistry until he retired.

She was active in college and community events throughout her lifetime. She served in many capacities at the United Church of Christ-Congregational, was a member of Chapter JB, P.E.O., and the Tuesday Club. She was a long-time member of the care-review committee at Mayflower and her early work in that area benefited her during her final years in Mayflower Health Care Center.

She is survived by two daughters Betty Holt and Nancy Hillman and one son Bill Oelke, and three sisters, Esther Jensen, Ruth Newlin and Elinor Cloe.

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