Dorothy Uitermarkt, 97, of Pella

Dorothy Uitermarkt, 97, of Pella passed away Sept. 18, 2006. Funeral services were held Sept. 20, at the First Reformed Church in Pella. Interment was held at the Evergreen Cemetery in Leighton.

Memorials can be given to the First Reformed Church in Pella for missionary support.

Dorothy Mae Van Ommen Uitermarkt was born on July 16, 1909, on a farm east of Pella. She was the oldest of four daughters born to the late Dick and Jennie De Bruin Van Ommen. She was baptized at the Third Reformed Church in Pella. Her parents farmed in the Leighton and Oskaloosa area. Dorothy attended rural schools through the eighth grade and later she traveled by train each week to attend Pella High School boarding at her grandparents home in Pella. She graduated in 1927 and spent six years teaching elementary school, one year at Bunker Hill near Pella and five years at Bloomfield School near Oskaloosa.

On Feb. 28, 1934, Dorothy was united in marriage with Clayton Orlan Uitermarkt and went to live on his family's farm near Leighton, a farm that would later become theirs. For the next 30 plus years, Dorothy's teaching career was focused on the seven children born to them: Verlan, Kenneth, Elinor, Maxine, Melvin, Linda and Nancie.

Those left to honor her long life are her children and their spouses, 14 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren. They are: Verlan and Marjane Uitermarkt of New Sharon; Ken and Fern Uitermarkt of Pella; Elinor and Nelson Bogaard of Pella; Maxine Lanser of Centennial, Colorado; Melvin and Shirley Uitermarkt of Leighton; Linda and John Grandia of Pella; Nancie and David Norwood of Washington, North Carolina. She is also survived by her youngest sister, Jeannette Ver Steegh of Oskaloosa.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her son-in-law, Gary Lanser, two of her sisters and their husbands: Wilma and Henry Van Roekel, Bernice and Richard Van Roekel, her brother-in-law, Floyd Ver Steegh; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Elmer and Eva Uitermarkt; and Lenita (Uitermarkt) and Dan Aalbers.