

Gretchen M. Beck, 88



Gretchen M. Beck, 88, of Grinnell, died on Friday, Nov. 2, 2007, at Friendship Manor in Grinnell.

A funeral service was held Monday, Nov. 5, at the Trinity Lutheran Church near Malcom with

the Rev. Herb Knudten officiating. Interment was at the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the Trinity Lutheran Church. Online condolences may be submitted to the family online at www.smithfh.com.

Gretchen was born the daughter of Robert Butler and Lucy Parmley on Oct. 12, 1919 in Grinnell. She was raised and educated in Grinnell. She was united in marriage to Fred C. Beck on Aug. 2, 1940, in Lancaster, Mo. To this union were born their daughters Frances, Dorothy and Virginia. The couple resided in Malcom and

they operated an automotive repair and service business there for 31 years. She was a cook at the Grinnell Middle School for several years and also was employed at Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance. Gretchen was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church near Malcom. She found strength in her family, friends and her faith. Her enjoyments included embroidering, gardening, dancing and traveling.

Gretchen is survived by her daughters, Frances (Lloyd) Sisco of Daytona Beach, Fla., Dorothy (Ronald) Reams of Montezuma, and Virginia (Larry) VanErsvelde of Grinnell; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Faye Griffith of Pico Rivera, Calif.

Gretchen was preceded in death by her husband, Fred Beck, in 1972; her daughter, Erma Schaeffer; brothers Lawrence, Arnold, Carl and Robert Butler; and sisters Ruby Ahrens, Merle Rink and Grace Duarte.

MR 11/7/07