

## Esther Hildebrand <sup>HR</sup> 10/16/08



Esther Hildebrand, 90, of Grinnell died Sunday, Oct. 12, 2008, at Mayflower Health Care Center.

A funeral service was held Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Grinnell United Methodist Church with the Rev. Len Eberhart, pastor of the church, officiating. Organist was Pat Saxton and vocalist was Barry Soukup. Casket bearers were members of her family. A graveside service followed at Jackson Township Cemetery, rural Montezuma. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimers Association or to the Mayflower Community.

She was born Aug. 21, 1918, in New Sharon to Lee and Mary "Mamie" Williams McNeal. She was raised in New Sharon, graduating from New Sharon High School. She then completed normal training and taught at Star Rural School. On Dec. 28, 1937, she was united in marriage with Leslie Hildebrand in Lancaster, Mo. The couple farmed near New Sharon prior to moving to a farm near Barnes City. In 1960 the family moved to Montezuma where they operated the Coast to Coast Store. They moved to Grinnell in 1970 and she worked at Burling Library at Grinnell College.

She was a member of the United Methodist Church, Sunset Club, Sta Club and Splash and Dash. She enjoyed reading, gardening, traveling and dancing.

She is survived by three daughters, Cheryl Pitcher of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Vickie Bunnell of Grinnell and Lezlie Hildebrand of Tampa, Fla.; four grandchildren; five great grandchildren; one sister, Colleen Ferguson of New Sharon, and three brothers, Don McNeal of Santa Cruz, Calif.; George McNeal of Los Gatos, Calif., and Jim McNeal of Show Low, Ariz. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, one grandson, Marc Bunnell; one brother, Virgil McNeal, and three sisters, Alvetta Dodd, Luverna Rice and Nellie Stanford.