

Florence Hoidahl



H-R November 12, 2001

Florence C. Hoidahl, 92, of Grinnell died Thursday, Nov. 8, at the Mayflower Health Care Center.

A memorial service was conducted Sunday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, with the Rev. L.A. King officiating. Burial will be at a later date at Mt. Vernon Cemetery.

The daughter of Thomas R. and Julia Hunter Chambers, she was born Jan. 14, 1909, in Davenport. She later moved with her family to Mt. Vernon and was a 1925 graduate of Mt. Vernon High School and a 1929 graduate of Cornell College. Her graduate work was at the School of Speech, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. She taught English and speech for 12 years and was director of dramatics at Iowa schools in Laurens, Estherville and Clinton.

She was married to Edward R. Hoidahl Dec. 21, 1940, on the University of Chicago campus. They lived in the Chicago area until moving to Mt. Vernon in 1949. She had been a resident of the Mayflower in Grinnell since 1991.

While in Mt. Vernon, Mrs. Hoidahl joined the staff of the Hawkeye Record and Lisbon Herald weekly newspaper, writing news, features and sports. She also wrote a weekly column. She was a member of ~~the Iowa~~ Press Women, Iowa Columnists and National Press Women organizations. She promoted music and sports in the local schools and served on the Cornell College National Alumni Board, serving two terms as president. She was also elected to national speech and dramatics honorary societies.

She was a charter member of the local Federated Women's Club and served as president for one term. She was also a charter member of the Restoration Lodge of Sons of Norway in Cedar Raids and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Grinnell. She was formerly affiliated with Trinity Episcopal Church in Iowa City.

Surviving are two sons, Richard of Johnston and Randy of Aurora, Colo.; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and one son, Edward, in infancy.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cornell College or to the organization of the donor's choice.