

K-12 2-23-1989
**Merle and Mary
Lou Van Steenis**

A rural Pella couple died Wednesday, Feb. 15, of accidental asphyxiation at their home.

Merle and Mary Lou Van Steenis, aged 70 and 55, respectively, were killed by carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a blocked chimney, according to authorities.

Joint funeral services were conducted Saturday at Trinity Reformed Church in Pella, with the Rev. Donald W. Plantinga officiating. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery, Pella.

Memorials in Mr. and Mrs. Van Steenis's names may be made to the Pella Community Nursing Home or Trinity Reformed Church.

Merle Van Steenis was born Oct. 29, 1918, near Taintor. He attended rural schools in Marion County.

He was married to Pearl Anita De Jong March 16, 1944. She died in 1983.

On March 17, 1984, he was married to Mary Lou Vande Kieft at Pella.

Mr. Van Steenis is survived by three daughters, Sheryl Mulder of Pella, Susan Hanson of Le Claire and Diane Schwan of Pella; two grandsons; four stepchildren; four step-grandchildren; a brother, Raymond of Pella; and a sister, Norma Simons of Leighton. He was preceded in death by his first wife and his parents.

Mary Lou Van Steenis
Mary Lou Zylstra was born Feb. 24, 1933, at Grinnell. She attended rural school and Sully Christian Grade School. She graduated from Sully Christian High School.

She was married to Gareth P. Vande Kieft at Sully Nov. 19, 1953. The couple farmed near Otley for six years, then west of Monroe for seven years. They moved to Pella in 1967 where she worked as a secretary at Vermeer Manufacturing Co. She was also employed at Pella Community Nursing Home.

She was married to Merle Van Steenis in 1984.

She was a member of the Trinity Reformed Church in Pella.

Surviving are four children, Paul Vande Kieft of Pella, Carol Fugitt of Missoula, Mont., Gregg Vande Kieft of Phoenix, Ariz.; and David Vande Kieft of Iowa City; four grandchildren; three step-daughters; two step-grandsons; five brothers, Willam of Sully, Orville of Sully, Paul of Pella, Wendall of Sully and Claude of Pella; and one sister, Delores Van Rees of Pella.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister and one brother.