

Barbara B. Howell

Barbara Bates Howell, 96, of the Mayflower Community died Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at Mayflower Health Care Center.



A funeral service will be held Monday, May 5, 2008, at 11 a.m. in Carman Center at Mayflower with the Rev. Dr. Susan Weier, pastor of the United Church of Christ-Congregational, officiating. Music will be by Pat Saxton, pianist, and Bill Surbrug, vocalist. Casketbearers will be Thomas H. Howell, Edward A. Howell, Sylvia C. Howell, Kathleen C. Howell, Alexander J. Howell, Anthony T. Howell, John C. Howell and Drew C. Howell. Interment will be in Hazelwood Cemetery. Friends may call at Smith Funeral Home from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Family members will be present at the Carman Center one hour prior to the service. Memorials may be directed to the Mayflower Community or Grinnell Regional Hospice.

She was born March 29, 1912, in Grinnell, the second daughter of pioneer Grinnell businessman Roy E. Bates and his wife Kathrina Buchanan Bates. She attended Grinnell schools and graduated from Grinnell College in 1933. She left Grinnell to go to Moser Secretarial School in Chicago, and later moved to New York City to work with the Religious Book Club. In 1937, she became an executive secretary in the office of Thomas E. Dewey when he was special prosecutor and later District Attorney in New York City. After Mr. Dewey became Governor of New York, she accepted a position as legal secretary to Barent Ten Eyck of the law firm of Parker and Duryee, Mr. Ten Eyck having been one of Mr. Dewey's top assistants.

On Dec. 18, 1942, she was married to Irving R. Howell of Goshen, N. Y., and continued to work in New York City while her husband "Skeet" served in the United States Army during World War II. Following the war, they decided that they preferred to live in a small town, so they came to Grinnell in 1946 where they formed a partnership with her father in Bates Flowers. In 1956 they purchase the business outright and continued to be an important part of the Grinnell business community until their retirement on December 31, 1976.

Both were active in community and church affairs. Barbara's main interest

was the hospital, where she served on the hospital board for six years and also helped out with the hospital's auxiliary. She also was actively interested in the Boy Scouts when her sons were young.

She was a member of the United Church of Christ-Congregational, having served on its social action committee and its Women's Fellowship board, and was a member of its Handbell Choir. She was a past president of Chapter JB, P.E.O., and a member of the Priscilla Club.

She is survived by two sons, Thomas H. Howell and Edward A. (Ned) Howell, both of West Lafayette, Ind.; four grandsons, two sisters Jean Bates Nelson of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Joy Bates Jolley of Oskaloosa. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, one sister Mary Bates Olson and one granddaughter Monica Elizabeth Howell.

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