Leone C. Gropper, 86

Leone C. Gropper, 86, of Grinnell died on November 16, 2006, in the Monarch Wing of Skiff Medical Center in Newton.

Funeral services for Mrs. Gropper were held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. John Epperson, Grinnell Christian Church and Rev. Mark Young, Newton First Christian Church, officiating. Pallbearers were Corey and Scott Cope, Greg, Jeff, Tim, Jeremy and Joshua Criswell, Jessica Owens, and Jenny Snyder. Burial was in Ivy Hill Cemetery in Malcom.



Memorial contributions may be directed to Newton Hospice.

The daughter of Peter and Florence Chrisman Dohrn, Leone was born March 29, 1920, in Des Moines. She was raised in Brooklyn and was a graduate of Brooklyn High School.

Leone was married to Raymond E. Criswell on February 7, 1939, in Unionville, Mo. For several years they farmed near Malcom and then moved to Grinnell. She was later married to Wayne L. Gropper on May 8, 1968, in Moline, Ill. and they moved to their home in Oakland Acres in 1977. Leone owned and operated BoKay Flowers in Grinnell and later was employed part-time for Bates Flowers. She was an active member of the Eastern Star, Eagles Auxiliary, and Elks Auxiliary.

Leone held a great love and devotion for her family and valued her time with them. She loved to sing and dance and enjoyed playing cards with family and friends. She enjoyed flowers, cooking and entertaining, fishing, and canning produce from her garden. She held a wonderful sense of humor and liked to have fun.

Survivors include two children and their spouses, Karen and John Schermerhorn of Newton and Fred and Marge Criswell of Newton; a daughter-in-law, Kennetha Criswell of Searsboro; two step-children, Mary Johnson of Harlan and Marilyn Gropper of St. Paul, Minn.; one brother, Richard Loomis and his wife, Betty of Daytona Beach, Fla.; seven grandchildren; one step-grandchild; eleven greatgrandchildren; and one step-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents; both husbands; one son, Jerry Allen Criswell; and two sisters, Betty Frank and Josephine Werner.

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