

Harriet Zoe Hoel



Harriet Zoe Hoel, 87, of Grinnell died Thursday, June 15, 2006, at the Mayflower Home Health Care Center in Grinnell.

Funeral services for Harriet Hoel will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 20, at the Carman Center of the Mayflower Home in Grinnell, with the Rev. Kirsten Klepfer officiating. Interment will be at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Visitation will be held prior to the services Tuesday, beginning at 9 a.m. in the Carman Center.

She was born on Sept. 19, 1918, in Coatsburg, Ill., the only child of Walter and Elma Vollbracht. While she was still in her infancy, her family moved to Kenosha, Wis., where she graduated from high school in 1936. After studying at a community college and working in a department store, she entered the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She graduated from the university in 1943 with a bachelor's degree in home economics.

After spending a year in a dietetics internship at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, she entered the Army medical corps as a hospital dietitian.

She met Howard Hoel in 1942, while she lived in Wisconsin and he was stationed as a Navy instructor at Great Lakes, Ill., on a blind date. The couple married on July 17, 1945, in Brigham City, Utah, where Zoe was stationed in the Army and Howard was on leave from a tour of duty on a destroyer in the South Pacific.

After the war, the couple moved to Thief River Falls, Minn., where the family helped purchase the Northern Woodwork Company. The couple's three children – Jeffrey, Emily and Timothy – were born and raised in Thief River Falls, where she used her home economics training as a homemaker. In 1961, she started working in the business with her husband; she continued in that role until the couple sold the business in 1981.

In 1988, they moved to Coon Rapids, Minn., where they enjoyed more urban advantages such as attending plays and musical performances.

She was a cook who specialized in jams, jellies, pies and homemade wines. She was a committed and skilled bridge player. She enjoyed old movies, crossword puzzles and knitting.

She is survived by her children, Jeffrey of Palo Alto, Calif.; Emily Moore of Grinnell; and Timothy Hoel of Minneapolis, Minn.; four grandchildren; and a great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

Online condolences may be submitted to the family on the Smith Funeral Home website, www.smithfh.com.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Grinnell Regional Hospice or to the Mayflower Home Human Needs Fund.

G. T. Smith