

Harriet L. McIlrath, 78



Harriet L. McIlrath, 78, died Friday, Feb. 16, 2007, at the Hospice House in Ottumwa.

Her funeral service was Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the First Presbyterian Church, Montezuma. Burial

followed in the Jackson Township Cemetery, Montezuma. Watts Funeral Home of Montezuma was in charge of the arrangements.

Harriet was born on July 6, 1928, west of Sully in Jasper County. She was the daughter of James Elmer Pahre and Catherine VerStegh. She attended rural country school until the family moved to Newton. She attended St. Andrews Lutheran Church west of Sully and made her confession of faith in God. Harriet graduated from Newton High School in 1946. She worked in the offices of Campbell and Campbell attorneys and attended Iowa State University for one year.

On Sept. 5, 1948, she was united in marriage with James H. McIlrath of Montezuma at the First Lutheran Church in Newton. To this union three children, Susan, Cindy and Kent were born. She and Jim made their home in Montezuma. Harriet was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church. She had served in various activities. Harriet especially enjoyed teaching Sunday

School for the adults. She had a great love for God, family and friends. She enjoyed her grandchildren and great-grandchildren to the fullest. Even when life threw her a curve ball, she kept her amazing wit and always saw the good in people.

She worked in Montezuma for Glenn Eickhorn and worked in the Poweshiek County Courthouse in the Assessor's Office and Engineer's Office. She retired in 1993. Harriet loved volunteering and did so with hospice and Grinnell Regional Medical Center. She stayed in Montezuma until her health changed and she moved to rural Agency and made her home with her daughter, Cindy, her husband Alan, and her two grandchildren, Colton and Callie.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Jim, on May 4, 1966.

Those left to honor Harriet's memory include her son, Kent (and Ginger) McIlrath of Deep River; her daughters, Susan Shoup of Grinnell and Cindy (and Alan) Millard of Agency; her four grandchildren, Nikki and Eric Ribble, T.J. McIlrath, Callie Millard and Colton Millard; her two great-grandchildren; her sister, Carol (and Wallace) Wessel of Redding, Calif.; her brothers, Gordan (and Anne Leslie) Pahre of Omaha, Neb. and Keith (and Barbara) Pahre of Napa, Calif.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Presbyterian Family Center or Wapello County Hospice House.