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H-R August 16, 1999

Ruth Thorson

Ruth Fadness Thorson, 91, of the Mayflower died of congestive heart failure Thursday, Aug. 12, at the Mayflower Health Care Center.

A memorial service will be conducted at 3 p.m. Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. Michael Smith, pastor of the church, and the Rev. Arvid Dixen of Minneapolis officiating. Following cremation, burial will be in Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery, Tacoma, Wash. The Smith Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

She was born Dec. 16, 1907, in Roy, Wash., to Bryngulf K. and Britta Hernes Fadness. She lived in the Tacoma area and attended Pacific Lutheran Academy. She later graduated from the University of Puget Sound. She then taught mathematics at Fife High School.

She was married to Hans R. Thorson in 1940, and they moved to Anchorage, Alaska, where she

operated a boarding house and worked in fishing canneries. She later worked for the National Bank of Alaska and the accounting office at Pacific Lutheran University.

She moved to Wichita, Kan., in 1976 and to Grinnell in 1987.

Mrs. Thorson was a charter member of Central Lutheran Church in Anchorage where she had a long tenure as choir director and Sunday school superintendent. In Grinnell, she was an active member of the Women's Association and Friendship Group at the First Presbyterian Church, and she volunteered as an aide at Davis Elementary School. She tutored high school students in math and audited courses at Grinnell College until she was in her early 80s.

A daughter, Sylvia Thorson-Smith of Grinnell, and a grandson survive.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the First Presbyterian Church.