

Esther Wray (LAIRD)

Esther Wray, of Grinnell, 86, died, Jan. 27 at Grinnell of congestive heart failure. Services: Feb. 2, Grinnell United Methodist Church. Burial: Hazelwood Cemetery. Friends may call after 5 p.m. Wednesday at Smith Funeral Home, where the family will be present from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday.

Survivors include a daughter, Velma Phipps of Grinnell; a son, Larry of Montezuma; two brothers, Claude Ahrens and Donald Ahrens, both of Grinnell; and a sister, Elizabeth Fanton of Marshalltown.

Esther Wray, 86

Esther Wray, 86, of Grinnell, died Sat., Jan. 27, 1996 at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Fri., Feb. 2, at the Grinnell United Methodist Church with Rev. Lon Lewis, pastor of the church, officiating. Organist will be Mrs. Kathleen Heffner and vocalist will be Mr. Marty Duffus. Casket bearers will be David C. Phipps, Diane E. Burk, Steven M. Phipps, Christopher Wray, David Palmer, John M. Nolan, James W. Ahrens and Andrew D. Phipps. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell. Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday. The family will be present at the funeral home from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday. Memorials may be made to St. Francis Manor Activity Fund or to Hospice Grinnell.

Esther was born on Oct. 4, 1909, in Chamberlain, South Dakota to John W. and Mary B. Badger Ahrens. The family moved to the Grinnell area and she attended Grinnell schools. On July 4, 1928, she was married to Laird Wray at

Montezuma, Iowa. The couple farmed in the Grinnell area and they also operated Wray's Floor Covering in Grinnell. She also worked for Rexal Drug Store, Ben Franklin Store and for Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. She was a member of the Grinnell United Methodist Church and she was the first president of the former St. Francis Hospital Auxiliary.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; her son, Laird D. Wray; one granddaughter, Nancy L. Phipps; four sisters: Katherine Cummings, Mary Muckler, Jo Dunton and Billie Nolan; and two brothers: John L. Ahrens and Carl A. Ahrens.

Esther is survived by her daughter, Velma Phipps of Grinnell; a son, Larry Wray of Montezuma; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two brothers: Claude W. Ahrens and Donald W. Ahrens, both of Grinnell; and one sister, Elizabeth Fanton of Marshalltown.

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She was married to Laird Wray July 4, 1928, in Montezuma. They farmed the Grinnell area and also operated Wray's Floor Covering. Mrs. Wray also worked for Rexall Drug, Ben Franklin and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance.

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MR January 31, 1996