

Mathilda "Tillie" Engel, 87

Dec. 26, 1916 - Oct. 5, 2005

AVOCA — Mathilda "Tillie" Helen Heesch Engel was born Dec. 26, 1916, at Minden, the daughter of John and Wilhelmine "Lena" Siemsen Heesch, and was one of 10 children in the family. Her family lived in the Minden area until 1918 when they moved to Avoca. She attended school, completing the eighth grade.

Tillie married Adolph "Rosie" Engel June 26, 1935, in Avoca. They were the parents of four children, Judy, Jacqueline, Larry and Kristi. Tillie worked in a bakery owned by her sister. She managed the apartments in Avoca for 25 years and worked as a waitress at The Villager Restaurant in Walnut. She was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Avoca. She was a member of two 500 Clubs in the area. She became a resident of the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center in October of 1999. It was there that she died Oct. 5, 2004, at age 87 years, 10 months and 10 days.

Tillie was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her daughter, Judy McLaughlin; a granddaughter, Teresa McLaughlin; and nine brothers and sisters, Lillian Heesch, Art Heesch, Rudolph Heesch, Alma Piittmann, Herbert Heesch, Welma Schroeder, Hilda Heesch, Ray Heesch and Elmer Heesch. She is survived by three children, Jackie (Dwayne) Larsen and Larry Engel (Cheryl), all of Avoca; and Kristi (Kent) Beebe of Minden; 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 8, 2004, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca, with John Farrell officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Michelle Hardy, "Angel" Teresa McLaughlin, Sheila Zornes, Alyssa Beebe and Alexandria Beebe. Casket bearers were Doug Engel, Bob McLaughlin, Brad McLaughlin, Bill McLaughlin, Austin Beebe and Todd Larsen.