

Laura E. Joens, 56

MANNING - Laura, daughter of August and Ella Drees Wittrock, was born Jan. 27, 1933 at Carroll. The family made their home on a farm near Halbur, where she was educated through the 8th grade. She completed high school through the GED program in Manning in the late 1970's.

Sept. 5, 1960, she married Lester Joens. Four children, Deanne, Tonya, Jeff and Brian, were born to this union. They made their home on a farm southeast of Manning. During the farm crisis of the 1980's, she became active in the Rural Life Coalition, now known as Prairie Fire. She traveled to New York City where she appeared on the CBS program, Nightline; she spoke at Morningside College in Sioux City on farm problems, and shared her experiences with church groups in Des Moines and with other groups in the state. She was employed outside her home for three years in Audubon. She was active in community affairs, serving as a Girl Scout leader and as a member of the American Legion and VFW auxiliaries.

She was a member of Sacred Heart parish in Manning and of the Catholic Daughters and the Altar and Rosary Society. She also gave her time as a CCD teacher. Since Dec., 1988, she had been ill with cancer. She died Nov. 7, 1989 at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines at age 56 years, 9 months and 11 days.

She was preceded in death by her parents; by a brother, Marvin Wittrock and by two sisters, Bertila Rohe and Freda Wittrock. She is survived by her husband, Lester of Manning; by four children, Deanne (Randy) Mundt of Des Moines; Tonya Joens of Des Moines; Jeff Joens of Manning and Brian Joens of Manning; one granddaughter; by brothers and sisters, Walter Wittrock of Halbur; Beatrice Behrens of Carroll; Mildred Sturm of Carroll; Earl Wittrock of Carroll and Vic Wittrock of Halbur; by a brother-in-law, Norbert Rohe of Halbur; by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

The Rite of Christian Burial was held Nov. 10, 1989 at Sacred Heart Church in Manning with Rev. Father Ralph Reinhart as celebrant. Casketbearers were Marvin Wittrock, Tom Rohe, Doug Sturm, Dale Wittrock, Gary Behrens and Ronnie Wittrock.