

## Irene L. Klein, 80

*March 7, 1922 - Dec. 8, 2002*



**OMAHA** – Irene Loretta Klein was born to Frederick C. and Wilhelminia A. (Dierks) Backhaus March 7, 1922, near McLean, NE. Irene spent her first five years on the family farm moving to Randolph, NE in the spring of 1927. She attended kindergarten and first grade at the public school in Randolph, and following her family's return to McLean, attended second grade through her sophomore year in high school at McLean. The family then moved to Manilla, where Irene completed her junior year and was a member of the Manilla High School graduating class of 1940. Following graduation, she took normal training in Omaha,

NE, teaching at rural schools in Crawford and Shelby Counties in Iowa. It was while in Shelby County that she met "Mike" Klein, who was working on her parents' farm.

June 22, 1946, she married Cornelius "Mike" Klein following his return from World War II at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Omaha, NE. To this union, two daughters were born. The couple made their home in Omaha and retired there in 1984. She died Dec. 8, 2002, at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, NE, at age 80 years, nine months and one day.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Clarence and Wallace Backhaus, and sister, Vernella Goetzinger. She is survived by her husband, Cornelius "Mike" Klein of Omaha, NE; daughters, Gloria (Jim) Jefferies of Denver, CO; and Peggy Talbot of Denver, CO; grandchildren, Kara Jefferies (Phil) Cox of Columbia, MO, and Alex Jefferies of San Francisco, CA; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 11, 2002, at Pauley Funeral Home with the Rev. Jon Benson officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Jim Talbot, Stan Goetzinger, Jim Dotzler, Don Dotzler, Jim Goetzinger and Dennis Klein casket bearers.