

## Karen Korsgaard, 91

*Sept. 4, 1910 - May 1, 2002*

**KIMBALLTON** – Karen Inger Madsen was born Sept. 4, 1910, near the villages of Als and Helberskov, East Jylland, Denmark. She received her education in the public school system and attended approximately one year of trade school. Karen was also a gymnast and was only one of a dozen who represented Denmark in an international meet in 1927 that included Finland, Sweden and Norway. In her 20's she became a control assistant and traveled to dairy farmers all over Denmark to taste the milk produced.

Karen met Andreas "Andrew" Korsgaard in 1937, in Denmark, and married him June 19, 1938, in Omaha. They lived in Defiance, until 1940, when they bought a farm within the city limits of Kimballton, where they resided ever since. All their children were born on that farm. A new house was built for the farm in 1950, where their fifth and last child, Carl Eric Madsen Korsgaard, was born in 1951. The other four children were born in the old house, June Korsgaard Haas, 1941; Liss Korsgaard Hartley, 1943; Ellen Margrethe Korsgaard Bell, 1944; and Hans Christian Korsgaard, 1949. Karen was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and choir and sang with them for 60 years, until 2001. Throughout her years in Kimballton, she was a participant in community affairs, especially when music was involved. She sang Danish songs for events for visiting Danish ambassadors and other consuls. In her late 80's and into her 90's she has often been invited to sing a Danish song or two when the Danish Immigrant Museum or other organizations have had special events and presentations. She was an artist who sold her oils and pastels and was noted for her portraits. In 1988, 1989 and 1990 she was invited to paint an Easter egg for the annual White House display. The eggs, which are annually displayed at Easter, are kept at the Smithsonian Museum the rest of the year. After Andrew died Jan. 16, 1987, she was able to remain in their home in Kimballton, until her death there May 1, 2002, succumbing to pancreatic cancer at age 91 years, seven months and 27 days.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents and husband. She is survived by her children, June (Donald) Haas of Kimballton; Liss (Harrison) Hartley of St. Joseph, MO; Ellen (Stanley) Bell of Loveland, CO; Chris Korsgaard and partner, David York of Portland, OR; Carl Korsgaard of Iowa City; grandchildren, Michael Haas of Atlantic; Dennis Haas of Sioux City; Cathy Haas Collett of Lenexa, KS; Brenda Christensen of Colorado Springs; Andrea Christensen Kiya of Palo Alto, CA; Eric Hartley of Tulsa, OK; Annelise Hartley of Palo Alto, CA; Kimberly Korsgaard of Fort Collins, CO and Kristanne Korsgaard of Knoxville, TN; and great grandchildren, Katie and Kodie Haas of Atlantic and Elise Kiya of Palo Alto, CA.

Memorial services were held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kimballton, May 11, 2002. Ohde Funeral Home, Kimballton, in charge of arrangements.