

## Eleanor Olesen, 79

Jan. 9, 1919 - Feb. 9, 1998 ✓

**AVOCA** - Eleanor Lucille Wild Olesen was born Jan. 9, 1919, in Charleston, SC and died Feb. 9, 1998, at Bergan Mercy Medical Center in Omaha, at age 79. She was the daughter of Dr. Willard and Lola Berry Wild. She attended Hollins College and the University of Iowa, where she graduated in 1941. She remained a loyal Hawkeye fan throughout her life, attending 52 consecutive homecoming celebrations with college friends.

She married Herbert Carl Olesen March 31, 1942, in Las Vegas, NV. To this union were born three children. Herb was discharged from the United States Army in 1946, and they settled in Avoca to raise their family. Eleanor volunteered as a den mother, drove her own children and others to swimming lessons in Harlan before there was a pool in Avoca, organized Red Cross lessons in Avoca after the pool was built and served as secretary-treasurer of their Sunday School. They worked together to make Avoca a better place to live by supporting the community in many ways. She was active in her church and P.E.O. She headed the drive to fund the construction of the municipal swimming pool and worked tirelessly to beautify Avoca with trees and flowers through the Garden Club.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Willard; her stepmother, Christine Wild and her husband, Herbert. She is survived by her sister, Dorothy (Preston S.) Marchant of Greenville, SC, and their three children; half brother, Will Wild of Columbia, SC; sons, J.C. (Wilma) Olesen of Avoca and Willard (Susan) Olesen of Greenfield; daughter, Catherine (Jay) Howe of Greenfield; grandchildren, J. II (Tammy) Olesen; Jeremy; Brandi; Andrew; Kathryn; Robert; Molly; step grandchildren, Joseph and Olivia, and two great grandchildren, J. Christopher III and Jayna Christine Olesen.

Funeral services were held Feb. 12, 1998, at the United Church of Avoca, with Rev. Will Bynagte officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Ronald Johnson, George Weirick, Frank Sunstrom, Preston S. Marchant, Joe Davis, Earl Sievers, Orville Gordon and Will Wild. Casket bearers were Brandi Olesen, Jeremy Olesen, J. Olesen II, Kathryn Olesen, Andrew Olesen, Robert Benson and Molly Benson. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.