

Vernie Petersen, 85

July 29, 1914 - Jan. 28, 1999

INDIANOLA - Vernie Andersen was born July 29, 1914, to Lue and Kristina Andersen on a farm in Jackson Township in Shelby County. The family moved to a farm in Lincoln Township and later to the family farm one mile west of Harlan in 1920. She attended grade school in the country and graduated from Harlan High School in 1931.

June 28, 1934, she married Lake Petersen at the Lutheran Parsonage in Harlan. To this union, two children were born, Bonnie and Wayne. They farmed the family farm until they moved to their home in Harlan. She worked as a retail clerk at Norgaard's Drug Store and Lake served as Shelby County Deputy Sheriff until retirement in 1982. After Lake's death April 27, 1983, she continued to live in her home until January of 1988 when she moved to Indianola to be near her children. She was a lifetime member of Immanuel Lutheran Church at Harlan until she moved her membership to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Indianola. She was a member of the Indianola Business and Professional Women, and also served as a member on the American Cancer Board. Vernie died Jan. 28, 1999, at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, from complications of pneumonia. She had been hospitalized since Jan. 6, 1999.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lake Petersen; her son, Wayne L. Petersen; her parents, Lue and Kristina Andersen; three sisters, Marie Hanson, Helen O'Brecht and Martina Carter; and one brother, Carl Andersen. She is survived by her daughter, Bonnie L. Zimmerman of Indianola; granddaughter, Kristina W. Willson of Urbandale; grandson, James A. Zimmerman of Indianola; three great grandchildren, Jenna and Jared Willson and Tanner Zimmerman; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Memorial services were held Jan. 31, 1999, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Indianola, with Dr. Gene V. Andersen officiating and Feb. 1, 1999, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, with Rev. Jon Benson officiating. Inurnment was in the Harlan Cemetery.

