

Merna Thies, 86

March 11, 1918 - Jan. 6, 2005

AVOCA — Merna Dora Grobe Thies, daughter of Herman and Dora Schuning Groge, was born March 11, 1918, in Valley Township, Pottawattamie County. She attended Oakland schools and graduated from Oakland High School where she was a member of the high school band, playing the saxophone, and orchestra, playing the violin and the National Honor Society. After graduation, she attended Drake University where she was a member of Delta Sigma Epsilon Sorority, Commerce Club and the University orchestra. After graduation, Merna taught business subjects in the high schools at Rippey and Adel.

June 18, 1950, Merna married Clarence Thies in the Oakland Methodist Church in Oakland. One son was born to this union, Duane. After their marriage, they lived on the family farm until 1972, when they moved to Avoca. She was a girls' 4-H leader and a Sunday school teacher. She was a member of the Hancock United Methodist Church where she had been a church pianist, financial secretary and a member of the United Methodist Women's Auxiliary. She was a life member of both the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary. She had been a president of both organizations for many years and the VFW Auxiliary District President for three years. She was chosen outstanding VFW Auxiliary President in the state for one year and outstanding VFW Auxiliary District President another year by the state organization. She died Jan. 6, 2005, at the Avoca Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at age 86 years, nine months and 26 days.

In addition to her parents, Merna was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence. Survivors include her son, Duane Thies (Karla) of St. Joseph, MO; one grandchild, Jennifer Thies of St. Joseph, MO; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 10, 2005, at the Hancock United Methodist Church with Rev. Dr. Judy Flanegin officiating. Burial was in the Oaklawn Cemetery in Oakland. Honorary casket bearers were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jacobsen and Mr. and Mrs. William True. Casket bearers were Roger Reineke, Tom True, Steve Guyer, Darrel Jacobsen, John Schuning, Don Scheffler, Ronald Nihsen and Lynn Grobe. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.