

Irene Thomsen, 86

June 22, 1921 - Aug. 6, 2007

DOW CITY — Irene Helen (Brensel) Thomas was born in Manilla, June 22, 1921, the youngest of 12 children born to Johann Fredrich (Fred) Brensel and Emma Sophia Christina (Bosche) Brensel. When she was 2 years old, her mother died. Irene and three siblings were raised by an older sister, Lillie, and her husband, Earl Norris, along with their own four children. She grew up in and around the Manilla area and went through the eighth grade in the Manilla School System.

Jan. 2, 1946, Irene married Thomas Ernest Thomsen at the Zion Lutheran Parsonage in Denison. She and Tom settled on a farm near Dow City, where Tom farmed and was a farm laborer during their 44 years of married life together. In 1977, they built a new home on a small section of their original farm and later retired there. She had several jobs during her lifetime including: working at Daniels' Produce in Dow City, World Wide/Dubuque Pork in Denison, Midwestern College in Denison, and babysitting for various families in the Dow City area. She also sold eggs and dressed chickens to earn extra money for her family. She died Aug. 6, 2007, at the Crawford County Hospital in Denison, at age 86.

Irene was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Thomas (1990); her son, William Allen (2003); and her 11 brothers and sisters, Ella, Lillie, Alvina (Alice), Edward, Alfred, Earl, Edna, Ray, Viola, Laverne and Harold. She is survived by five of her six children, Karen Thomsen of Cherokee; John Thomsen of Dow City; Sheryl Thomsen of Council Bluffs; Jerry Thomsen of Winchester, KY; and Larry Thomsen of Dow City; a daughter-in-law, Lory Thomsen of Denison; four step-grandchildren; 14 step-great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 10, 2007, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Dow City. Burial was in the Dow City Cemetery. Huebner Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.