

### Elaine Hoffmann, 79

July 24, 1930 - March 2, 2010



**AVOCA** — Elaine Marie Greve Hoffmann was born on July 24, 1930 on a farm outside of Elk Horn, to her parents Einar and Marie (Hansen) Leistad. Elaine was baptized and confirmed at Elk Horn Lutheran Church. She graduated from Elk Horn High School in 1948.

Elaine married Elliot Greve on May 1, 1949. Four children were born to this union: Peter, Janis, Lee and Gwen.

Elaine married Gene Hoffmann on August 10, 1974. From this marriage she became a mother to nine additional children: Nick, Jim, Karen, Bill, Nancy, Denise, Sharon, John and Jeanne. It is often said, but with Elaine it could not be more accurate, "She was truly one of a kind." She had a personality like no other, and a full and unique life, but it was not always an easy life. She was a child of the Depression, and suffered the loss of her parents, two husbands and a son. However, even when her physical capabilities were failing, she often talked about how fortunate and blessed her life was. Education was always a priority for Elaine, and instilled in her children a solid belief in the importance of education. She began her teaching career in the early 1950s in one-room schools in rural Elk Horn and Atlantic. In the 1960s, Elaine commuted for several years between Elk Horn and Drake University while teaching and raising her children. She graduated from Drake in 1970 and taught elementary school for over thirty years in Elk Horn and Atlantic Public Schools. Elaine had a strong memory, and enjoyed writing about her past, completing several family memory books that were shared with many. She comforted her son Pete many nights when he was ill by sharing on the phone stories from when he was growing up. Elaine died in Avoca on March 2, 2010, having attained the age of seventy-nine years, seven months, and six days. She left us without suffering, surrounded by her books, family pictures and comforted by her religious faith. She happily joins those who have gone before us, and we look forward to our reunion at the table of the Lord.

Elaine is preceded in death by her parents Einar and Marie, her husbands Elliot and Gene, and her son Peter. She is survived by her children Janis (Eldon) Norgaard, Lee (Nancy) Greve, Gwen (Bruce) Carman, Nick (Barb) Hoffmann, Jim (Maureen) Hoffmann, Karen (Larry) Oller, Bill (Jenny) Hoffmann, Nancy (Keith) Holtz, Denise (Mark) Schieber, Sharon (Gary) Witmer, John (Bobbi) Hoffmann, Jeanne (Rusty) Wintermote and 41 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Elaine is also survived by her daughter-in-law Stacia Greve, her sister Sonja (Richard) Larsen, and her brothers Ed (Debbie) Leistad, Arnie (Vicki) Leistad, Roger (Barb) Leistad.

Rev. John Frost celebrated the 10:30 AM Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, March 6, 2010 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Avoca.

*Pauley*

Honorary casket bearers were Janis Norgaard, Gwen Carman, Karen Oller, Nancy Holtz, Denise Schieber, Sharon Witmer, and Jeanne Wintermote. Serving as casket bearers were Bill Hoffmann, Nick Hoffmann, Jim Hoffmann, Lee Greve, John Hoffmann, and Joseph Greve. Interment was held at the Elk Horn Lutheran Cemetery.

*Pauley Jones*  
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