

Alvena Mills, 86

April 11, 1911 - May 20, 1997

AVOCA - Alvena Dorothy Mills was born on a farm three miles east of Avoca April 11, 1911, daughter of Gus and Emma Roenfeldt Luth, and was one of seven children in the family. She was confirmed in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Avoca. She attended country school and the Avoca High School and graduated in 1930.

She married Arden Hubbard Mills June 27, 1934, at the Lutheran parsonage in Harlan. They resided in Atlantic. His children from a previous marriage joined them: Norma Jean, Arlene Niaoma and Ardythe May. They were the parents of one son, Edwin. Alvena and Arden separated in 1940 and Alvena and Edwin returned to Avoca and made their home with Alvena's parents. She began her career as a school teacher in 1941. She furthered her education through summer school and correspondence courses and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in education from the University of Omaha in 1966. She taught in many of the schools in the area and retired from teaching in May of 1974. She purchased her home in Avoca in 1974. Her retirement left her with time to be active in her church women's activities and the choir. She was also a member of the Avoca Business Women and an active Senior Citizen. She moved to Peace Haven Retirement Home in Walnut in August of 1993. She became a resident of the Salem Lutheran Nursing Home in Elk Horn August of 1994. She died at the home May 20, 1997, at age 86 years, one month and nine days.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Carl and Henry Luth; three sisters, Alma Luth, Meta Hipnar and Ella Krueger. She is survived by her son, Edwin Mills (Gloria) of rural Harlan; four grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; a brother, Ernest Luth (Ellen) of Walnut; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 23, 1997, at the Trinity Lutheran Church with Pastor Paul Bengston and Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Walnut Cemetery. Casket bearers were grandchildren, Denise Broveak, William Broveak, Sheryl Lytle, Gaige Lytle, Wade Mills, Hollie Mills, Kevin Mills and Lori Mills. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.