

Edna Nelsen, 95 ✓

May 31, 1909 - May 24, 2005

AVOCA — Edna Leona Christensen Nelsen was born May 31, 1909, on a farm west of Avoca, daughter of Peter and Martine Larsen Christensen, and was one of six children in the family. She attended country school and then later graduated from Avoca High School with the class of 1928. While in high school, Edna played basketball for four years.

Edna married Henry G. Nelsen Aug. 25, 1942, in Omaha, NE. Edna lived with Henry in Tampa, FL, while he was serving his country and she then returned to the Avoca area when he was sent overseas. Henry was discharged in 1946. Henry G. Nelsen Trucking Line had its beginning in 1947 when Henry purchased his first truck and they later expanded to a much bigger operation with offices in Omaha, NE and Chicago, IL. She worked beside her husband in the trucking business for 23 years and during this time they lived in Avoca. Edna bowled on the Laverne Kaven team. She was an active member of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Avoca and was also a VFW Auxiliary member. Henry and Edna built the first home in the Olesen Addition in Avoca and they celebrated their silver anniversary with an open house in 1967. Henry died suddenly of a heart attack June 4, 1976. She remained in her home until April 28, 2005. She died May 24, 2005, at the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center in Avoca, at age 95 years, 11 months and 24 days.

Edna was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Henry; five brothers and sisters, Harry, Walter and Carl Christensen, Rosie Jensen Gress and Oda Karstens; four nieces and nephews, Jeanette Drake, Raymond, Norman and Bonnie Christensen. She is survived by six nieces and nephews, Mildred Wunder (Victor) of Avoca; Arline Gans of Irwin; Nadine Lyon (Eldon) of Council Bluffs; Roger Christensen of Perris, CA; Clark Christensen (Donna) of Virginia Beach, VA; and Charles Christensen (Linda) of Avoca; sisters-in-law, Evelyn Nelsen, Margaret Nelsen and Lillian Flaherty (Bernard). She is also survived by her godchild, Erica Geers, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 28, 2005, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca, with Pastor Bernard Daiker officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Carl Bylund, Ronald Sornsen, Milt Hanson, Donald Johansen, Norman Woltmann, Vic Wunder and Warren Whisenard. Casket bearers were Lonnn Nelsen, Ronald Drake, Charles Christensen, Clark Christensen, Marty Monson and Kevin Wheatley. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca, in charge of arrangements.