

Dorothy Marie Stearns, 84

April 15, 1915 – May 20, 1999

ELK HORN – Dorothy Marie, daughter of Ira and Estella Anna Jacobs Derby, was born April 15, 1915, at Avoca. She attended Avoca High School. After her schooling, she worked for Dr. Anderson as a dental assistant in Avoca.

In 1946 she married Harold Carley Stearns at Avoca. They farmed near Avoca until 1956 when they moved to the Elk Horn area. Dorothy's husband worked for Shelby County. Dorothy was a homemaker and later worked as head cook at Salem Lutheran Retirement Home in Elk Horn. Harold died in 1982. She was a member of the Lutheran Church in Elk Horn. She entered Salem Lutheran Nursing Home three weeks before her death there May 20, 1999, at age 84 years, one month and five days.

Besides her husband, she is preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Robert Derby. She is survived by two children, Dale Stearns (Claudia) of Sarasota, FL and Steven Stearns of Huntsville, AL; five grandchildren, a daughter-in-law, Carol Stearns of Washington, D.C.; two brothers, Douglas Derby (Jody) of Plattsmouth, NE and David Derby of Omaha; two sisters, Phyllis Bagley of Millard, NE and Marge Bevenssee of Gridley, CA; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 11, 1999, at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church with Rev. Mike Williams officiating. Inurnment was in the Graceland Cemetery, Avoca. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.