

Evelyn Johnson, 91

Feb. 2, 1913 - May 29, 2004

SHELBY — Evelyn Doris Johnson, daughter of Carl Ludwig and Anna Dortehea (Jensen) Pingel, was born Feb. 2, 1913, in Shelby. Due to the death of her mother, Evelyn and her brother, Delbert, were raised on their grandparents' farm outside of Tennant, while their father moved to Colorado to do custom work on farms. She was baptized and confirmed at the Shelby Lutheran Church. While growing up, Evelyn worked closely with her Grandma Gertrude helping with cooking, canning and sewing. After graduating from Tennant High School in 1930, she continued to be the main cook for the Pingel household. In the 1930's, the Pingel Orchestra provided music for many of the barn dances in the Tennant, Persia and Corley areas with Evelyn playing the piano.

She married Wilbur Johnson Dec. 20, 1942, at the Lutheran Parsonage in Shelby. They were the parents of two daughters, Katherine and Virginia. Evelyn and Wilbur farmed on the east edge of Shelby where they raised livestock and Wilbur ran a blacksmith shop. After retirement, they built a house in town overlooking the farm. She quilted with the Lutheran Sewing Circle making many quilts for the Lutheran World Relief. In the fall of 2002, Evelyn became a resident of the Avoca Lodge of Assisted Living. She was a charter member of the Social Farmerettes Club, Friendship Club, Church Altar Guild and other church groups. She died May 29, 2004, at age 91 years, three months and 27 days.

In addition to her parents, Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband, Wilbur Johnson; her brother, Delbert Pingel; and her half brother, Arthur Pingel. She is survived by her daughters, Katherine (William) Barrett of Shelby and Virginia (Kenneth) Gibson of Iowa City; her grandchildren, Galen (Wendy) Barrett of Crescent; Traci (Tim) Miner of Gilbert; Aaron Gibson (Kari) of Hoffmann Estates, IL; Heather (Jon) Meester of Crystal, MN; and Ashlee (Matt) Taylor of Lakewood, CO; her great-grandchildren, Madison and Landon Barrett; Alexandra and Owen Miner; Emma Gibson; and Andrew and Audrey Meester; her sister-in-law, Lu Pingel of Shelby; half sisters, Gertrude Williamson of Julesburg, CO and Dorothy Lechman of Sterling, CO; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 1, 2004, at the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Shelby, with Rev. Dale Jenson officiating. Burial was in the Shelby Cemetery. Casket bearers were Ron Kroll, Dennis Arentsen, Eugene Wahling, Dennis Wahling, Bill Johnson and Duane Johnson. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca, in charge of arrangements.