

Velma F. Newell, 97

Jan. 1, 1900 - Nov. 21, 1997

IRWIN - Velma Frances, daughter of Jay and Dora Martindale Murray was born Jan. 1, 1900, at Audubon. At age 11, she moved with her family from Audubon to a farm north of Irwin. After finishing her schooling, she attended Snow Dressmaking School at Manning. She worked at home for about a year.

Aug. 28, 1928, she married Walter Newell at Adel. Two children were born to this union. They farmed north of Irwin for about 30 years, then bought a farm near Hamlin. They lived there for eight years until the death of her husband in 1972. She then moved into her home in Irwin where she lived until February 1994 when she became a resident of the Manilla Manor Nursing Home. She was a member of the United Methodist Church in Irwin, United Methodist Women's Afternoon Circle, Jefferson Community Club, G. G. Club, Canasta Club and Keenager Club. She died Nov. 21, 1997, at the Manilla Manor Nursing Home, Manilla, at age 97 years, 10 months and 20 days.

Besides her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by both of her children, Donald Newell and Shirley Petersen; four brothers, William, Dale, James and Donald Murray, and two sisters, Aseneth Drobaz and Mabel Hulsebus. Survivors include her son-in-law, Kenneth Pedersen of Irwin; three granddaughters, Deborah (Ken) Kaul of Le Claire; Betty (Dan) Hansen of Manilla; Mary Ellen (Perry) Kelley of Harlan; one grandson, Donald Newell, Jr. (Ann) of West Minster, CA; eight great grandchildren; one great great granddaughter; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Nov. 25, 1997, at the United Methodist Church, Irwin, with Rev. Joseph Boysen officiating. Burial was in the Manning Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Ken Kaul, David Hansen, Patrick Kaul and Michael Kelley. Casket bearers were Gary Murray, Dan Hansen, Lew Buckner, Bobby Murray, Perry Kelley and Walter Murray. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.