

Ruth Petersen, 83

Oct. 16, 1918 – Dec. 27, 2001

AUDUBON – Ruth Marie Petersen, daughter of John and Maran Augusta Haahr Rasmussen, was born Oct. 16, 1918, on her parents' farm near Audubon. Ruth was baptized and confirmed at the Hamlin Lutheran Church. She attended rural schools in Audubon County, then attended high school in Audubon. She moved to Des Moines, and was employed as a nanny by her Aunt Hannah for a year, then returned to Audubon. She then was employed as a housekeeper for Dr. Child for several years.

Aug. 31, 1941, she married Emmert J. Petersen at the Hamlin Lutheran Church. They farmed northwest of Audubon for a short time, then farmed north of Ross. After World War II they purchased a farm east of Hamlin and farmed there for 10 years, then purchased a meat locker in Harlan. Later they also purchased the locker in Elk Horn, and Avoca. In 1971, they sold the lockers and purchased land around Lake Panorama in Panora. Emmert built homes and Ruth did the interior decorating until she retired. They moved to Audubon and Ruth moved to the Friendship Home in September of 1999. She was a member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Audubon and was a member of the Gideons Auxiliary for many years. She was also the kitchen coordinator at the Brethren Church in Panora for many years. She also was active in the women's groups of the several churches to which she belonged during her life. She died Dec. 27, 2001, at the Friendship Home in Audubon, at age 83 years, two months and 11 days.

Preceding her in death were her parents; a sister, Elsie, and her husband, Harold Brown; her brothers-in-law and sister-in-law, Robert Preston, Freida and her husband, Hans Sorensen; Ernest K. C. Petersen and Sophus Jensen. Survivors include her husband, Emmert J. Petersen of Audubon; her children and their spouses, Elaine and Phil Miller of Harlan; Linda and Richard Sprague of Polk City; Clinton E. and Janet Petersen of Ames; her grandchildren, Jill Miller of Council Bluffs; Philip and Sharon Miller of Omaha, NE; Timothy Miller of Fremont, NE; Steven and Susan Sprague of Ankeny; Diane and Michael Laster of Rock Island, IL; Kristina and Keith Weggen of Urbandale; Katie Petersen of Ames; her great grandsons, Austin Laster and Brandon Laster, both of Rock Island; her sisters, Norma Smith of Audubon; Esther Preston of Des Moines; Donis (Maurice) Knutsen of Ankeny; her sisters-in-law, Gladys Jensen of Harlan and Carrie Petersen of Audubon; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 31, 2001, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Audubon, with Pastor Steven Frock officiating. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery in Audubon. Casket bearers were Richard Sorensen, David Sorensen, Roger Jensen, Robert Jensen, Howard Jensen, Dalton Jensen, John Smith and James Preston. Kessler Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.