SAUNDERS, Lavonne Ann (Johnson)

November 11, 1935
rural Viborg
October 13, 1998
Rapid City SD

Lavonne Ann Saunders

Lavonne Ann Saunders, 62, Rapid City, died Tuesday, October 13, 1998, at Rapid City Regional Hospital, following a five month struggle with ovarian cancer.

She was born on November 11, 1935, to Fred T. and Agnes Larsen Johnson. She was baptized and confirmed at Spring Valley Lutheran Church in rural Viborg. She attended rural country schools and graduated from Freeman High School in 1954, and from Yankton College in 1958 with a degree in elementary education. She began teaching in Sioux City, Iowa, and continued teaching until she retired in 1995.

She was married to Delmar H. Saunders in May of 1968, and together they taught in Spirit Lake and Marcus, Iowa; Egan, Onida, Alexandria, Clarkson, Nebraska; and Wright, Wyoming, before moving to Rapid City in 1989.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Sonja Saunders Wallestad and Jason Wallestad of Rapid City; one brother, Virgil L. Johnson, and his wife, Madge, of Viborg; stepchildren, Coye Saunders of Houston, TX, Troy Saunders of Mora, MN, Gina Voss of Mahtomedi, MN, and Teri Thompson of Des Moines, IA; and nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Delmar, on March 15, 1998; her parents, and her sister, Isabelle.

Funeral services were held on October 15, 1998, at Osheim-Catron Funeral Home, Rapid City, SD, with Rev. Steve Unzicker of Spring Valley Lutheran Church, Viborg, SD, officiating. Organ music was provided by Diane Ketel and congregational hymns "Rock of Ages" and Amazing Grace" were sung. Pallbearers were: Gerald Johnson, Warren Johnson, Terry Jensen, Keith Jensen, Jack Saunders and Joe Izzillo. Interment is in the Black Hills National Cemetery, Sturgis, SD.

Viborg Enterprise
October 29, 1998