Elmira (Ellie) Root
March 14, 1932 - November 14, 1996

Elmira (Ellie) Root, age 64, died Thursday, November 14, 1996 at her home in Monticello. She was born March 14, 1932 in Brooklyn Township, Green County, the daughter of Paul and Verena (Elmer) Grossenbacher. She attended Green County Teacher College and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a degree in Elementary Education and later obtained her Master's Degree.

Ellie was married to Donald Root in New Glarus on December 27, 1952. She was a beloved teacher for 37 1/2 years in the Monticello area, teaching in East Dayton, six years in country schools, Albany, and later teaching Social Studies to 7th, 8th, and 9th grades in Monticello until her retirement in 1994.

A strong advocate of her Swiss heritage, Ellie organized and escorted "Friends of the Swiss" tours to Switzerland and Europe for 25 years. Because of her strong ties to the Swiss community, she served on the steering committee of the 150th Anniversary of New Glarus and wrote a chapter in the 150th anniversary book. She was also involved in the William Tell play in New Glarus for many years, acting many parts including the character of Gertrude.

Ellie was a long-time member of the Zwingli United Church of Christ, Monticello, Wisconsin Retired Educator's Association, Monticello 2000, Monticello MBPA, Monticello Historical Society, and a director of the Monticello Scholarship Fund. She was a very active community member in Monticello.

Ellie is survived by her husband, Don, Monticello; a son, James (Janet) Root, Monroe; a daughter, Connie Root, Dallas, TX.; two grandchildren; her mother, Verena Grossenbacher, New Glarus; a sister, Dr. Pauline Boss (Dudley Riggs), St. Paul, MN.; and a brother, John Grossenbacher, Bozeman, MT.

Ellie was preceded in death by her father, Paul Grossenbacher in 1990, and a brother, Edward Grossenbacher.

Funeral services were Monday, November 18, at the Zwingli United Church of Christ, Monticello, with Rev. Lawrence Balliene officiating, assisted by Mary Gafner. Interment was in Highland Cemetery, Monticello.