

Elsie Violet Carlson was born January 1, 1922, in Marshall Co. IL to mother Carrie and father George. Growing up a country girl Elsie always knew how to work hard. She was a waitress at Starved Rock State Park lodge throughout high school and college. After graduating from Sparland High School Elsie went on to received her bachelors of science degree In June of 1944 from ISNU. She went on to get her masters degree from the University of Illinois in Chicago December of 1945. She and her first husband Robert Johnson, an engineer in the Army Air Corp, married September 16, 1945, in Peoria co.

Elsie's first professional job was a bacteriologist with the Illinois Public Heath Department. She worked there for 8 years teaching and working in diagnostics before public educational called her name. In 1954 she decided to go into the public education field and became a 4th grade teacher at Ben Franklin Elementary School in Glen Ellyn, IL. After the birth of her second child and a short break from teaching, she began working at Cloverdale School in Carol Stream, IL teaching three grades in a one room building. During her third year at Cloverdale, Elsie not only taught but found herself as principal and functioning superintendent. After 9 years of all three roles she stepped down from teaching to commit herself to both principal and superintendent roles. Elsie served as superintendent from 1959 until 1982. Her sons both recall many instances of helping out at the schools. They helped with many tasks from shoveling snow off the roofs of schools after a big storm so the roofs wouldn't cave in to paint classrooms to helping mow the schools' grounds.

Elsie completed her doctorate of education from Northern Illinois University in May 1978. She wrote her doctoral dissertation on the potential use of solar energy for heating and cooling in schools. She was a strong women in a man's world who always stood up for herself and worked hard for what she wanted while always looking immaculate. Even well into her 90s she always had her nails manicured.

In 1982 Elsie received the honor of having a school in District 93 named in her honor. Today Elsie C. Johnson School in Hanover Park is still going strong.

After Elsie's first husband passed away, she married for a second time to Ed Lucking. After marrying, Ed and Elsie retired to Florida where they spent the rest of their lives. Ed and Elsie loved to travel the world and entertain friends.

Elsie passed away November 2, 2019, at the age of 97. Her two sons Jeff Johnson and Dr. Jay Kyo-Johnson, as well as her 6 grandchildren will all miss her dearly.