

Esther Christensen, 92

Dec. 3, 1910 - July 26, 2003



HARLAN – Esther Marie Christensen, the daughter of Charles William and Pearl E. (Daws) Obrecht, was born Dec. 3, 1910, at her parents' home east of Harlan. She was baptized and confirmed at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan in 1923. After graduating from Harlan High School in 1928, Esther taught in country schools east of Harlan for three years.

She married Christian Walter Christensen Dec. 27, 1931, at her parents' home. Six children were born to this union, Marilyn, Jeanette, Eugene, Jerry, David and Judy. After their marriage, the couple farmed near Jacksonville. They later farmed east of Corley, and then purchased their present farm west of Corley. Chris and Esther retired to Harlan in 1975, where she cared for him until his death March 19, 1990. After several years, Esther became a resident of the Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn. Shortly thereafter, she moved to the Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan. She was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Harlan for 80 years. She was a 4-H leader and participated in the Shelby County Fair with her knitting and baked goods entries. She was also a member of the Shelby County Retired Teachers Association. She died July 26, 2003, at the Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan, at age 92 years, seven months and 23 days.

Preceding Esther in death were her parents; her husband, Christian W. Christensen; one infant daughter, Marilyn LaVonne Christensen; one infant son, Eugene Christian Christensen; one grandson, Dean A. Wilkerson; two brothers, Lloyd W. Obrecht and Donald LaVerne Obrecht; one son-in-law, James L. Wilkerson; and one sister-in-law, Helen Obrect. She is survived by her children, Jeanette I. Wilkerson of Exira; Jerry E. (Rae) Christensen of Treynor; David L. Christensen of Phoenix, AZ; and Judy A. (Larry) Gillam of De Soto, MO; one sister, Nadine P. Greiner of Omaha, NE; 10 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held July 29, 2003, at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan, with Rev. Ed Frank officiating. Casket bearers were Robert Gillam, Jeff Wilkerson, David Wilkerson, Steve Christensen, Greg Christensen, Blake Wilkerson and Larry Gillam. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. The Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.