

## Bernice Johnson, 87

*Nov. 12, 1918 - Oct. 2, 2006*

**HARLAN** — Bernice Irene Johnson, daughter of Holger and Agnetta (Jorgenson) Pedersen, was born Nov. 12, 1918, in rural Kimballton. After graduating from Kirkman High School in 1936, she attended summer school in Cedar Falls, to obtain her teaching certificate. She then taught country school north of Irwin, for four years.

June 3, 1941, Bernice married Keith Deen Johnson in Omaha, NE. The couple lived in California during World War II; they returned to Harlan in 1954. Bernice again taught school, first in rural schools and then at Laurel School in Harlan. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from Drake University in 1962. Bernice continued teaching until her retirement in 1980. She was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, where she was active in the quilting group and Bible studies. She was a life member of the National Education Association and an active volunteer at the Danish Immigrant Museum in Elk Horn. She died Oct. 2, 2006, at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE, at age 87 years, 10 months, and 20 days.

Bernice was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Keith D. Johnson, May 12, 1992; one daughter, Cheryl Plumb; three brothers, Russell Pedersen, Ralph Pedersen, and Clifford Pedersen; and one sister, Esther Olson. Survivors include one son, Keith Lee Johnson of Scotia, NY; two granddaughters, Stephanie (Franklin Nichols) Johnson of Pilot Mountain, NC, and Kimberly (Robert) Lewis of Burnt Hills, NY; one grandson, Hylon (Anita Pilkerton-Plumb) Plumb IV of Lancaster, PA; two great-grandsons, Hylon Theron Plumb V of Lancaster, PA, and Nicholas Theodore Deen Johnson of Pilot Mountain, NC; one great-granddaughter, Jenna Nichols of Pilot Mountain, NC; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 6, 2006, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church with Pastor Heather Ploen officiating. Casket bearers were Don Andersen, Leo Goeser, Bruce Nelson, Richard Olsen, Bob Lewis, and Grant Thayer. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

