

## Alma Parker, 105

*Aug. 3, 1896 – May 26, 2002*

**COUNCIL BLUFFS** – Alma Ann Parker was born Aug. 3, 1896, at Oakland, to Thomas E. and Mary Porter Gray, the fifth of six children in the family. She received her education in a one-room country school, Oakland High School, and Highland Park College in Des Moines, and taught in rural schools for several years.

Alma married Lloyd S. Parker Sept. 17, 1917, shortly before he left for World War I Army duty. After his discharge, they farmed in the Sharon community west of Oakland, where both had grown up. Four children, Bernita, Phyllis, Lorna and Roger, were born to them there. In 1934, the family moved to the Rockbeck neighborhood southwest of Elk Horn. Another son, Lloyd Wray, was born there. They retired from farming in 1961, and moved to Glendale Acres near Council Bluffs. Lloyd died there Sept. 3, 1977, two weeks before their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Alma continued living in her home there until January of 1992. Since then her home has been with her daughter and son-in-law, Phyllis and George Marshall. She was an active member of the United Methodist Church in all three communities in which she lived. She and Lloyd were well known for their music. For many years Lloyd sang solos and they sang duets together for special occasions in church and community, and they sang for a great many funeral services. She died May 26, 2002, at Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn, at age 105 years, nine months and 23 days.

Besides her parents, brothers and sisters, Ralph Gray, Mervin Gray, Maud Morris, Nella Parker and Olive Lawless, and her husband, Lloyd, Alma was preceded in death by a great granddaughter, Lisa LaVey Marshall; son-in-law, Dale Doonan, and daughter, Lorna Kinney. She is survived by her children, Bernita Doonan of Harlan; Phyllis and George Marshall of Council Bluffs; Roger and JoAnn Parker of Marne; Lloyd and Pat Parker of Fort Collins, CO; son-in-law, Lester Kinney of Council Bluffs; 12 grandchildren; 29 great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 29, 2002, at the Broadway United Methodist Church with Rev. Marvin Amprister officiating. Burial was in the Garner Township Cemetery, rural Council Bluffs. Honorary casket bearers were Tom Kinney, Cortland Kirkeby, David Pilling and Dennis Pilling. Casket bearers were Troy Kinney, Randy Marshall, Roger Parker, Jr., Steven Marshall, Jay Doonan, Kelly Doonan, Jeffery Marshall and Douglas Parker. Cutler Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.