

Leona Petersen, 87

March 6, 1919 - July 25, 2006

HARLAN — Leona Irene Petersen, daughter of Adolph and Nancy (Rank) Gaer, was born March 6, 1919, in Harlan. She attended school in Kirkman. She also attended beauty school.

Jan. 1, 1940, Leona married Vernon L. Christensen at the Church of Christ in Harlan. Three sons were born to this union, Gary, Elwood and Daryl. After their marriage, the couple farmed in the Redline, Harlan, and Elk Horn areas.

Aug. 16, 1975, Leona married Gordon E. Petersen at the Little Brown Church in the Vail in Nashua. The couple made their home in Harlan, where Gordon was later employed with Southwest Transit driving a bus in the Shelby County area for senior citizens. She was employed at the Baptist Memorial Home as a nurse's aide. She was a member of the Church of Christ in Harlan, as well as its social clubs. Leona became a resident of the Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan, in August of 2003. It was there that she died July 25, 2006, at age 87 years, four months and 19 days.

In addition to her husband, Gordon, Leona was preceded in death by two sons, Elwood and Gary; a grandchild; her brothers, Lester and Howard Gaer; and a brother-in-law, Earl Zaiger. Survivors include her son Daryl Christensen (Joy) of Sioux Falls, SD; her stepson, Bernard Petersen (Shirley) of Minneapolis, MN; her stepdaughter, Diane Petersen of Minneapolis, MN; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; her sister, Dorothy Zaiger of Audubon; and sister-in-law, Bernadine Gaer of Harlan; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held July 28, 2006, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home with Roy North officiating. Burial was in the Jacksonville Cemetery with Bill Lambert, Philip Daringer, Ben Statema, Tom Gaer, Jon Hansen and Don Sorensen casket bearers.

