

1983

Esther B. Christensen, 85

Esther Belle Christensen, daughter of Lawrence and Susie Swinehart Kemp was born Nov. 22, 1897, on a farm in Shelby co. She was baptized at the Methodist church in Harlan, and later graduated from Harlan high school. She then taught country school at the Center Twp. grade school for a short time and then moved to Denver, Colo., where she worked for a short time before moving back to the Shelby co. area.

On Nov. 30, 1921, she married Andrew Christensen at Atlantic. Three children were born to this union. After their marriage, they farmed in Center twp. for five years. In 1926, they moved to Cass co. where they farmed until 1936. They then moved to a farm in Lincoln twp. and in 1940, they moved to a farm in Union twp., and this was their home until retiring in 1962. They then moved to Harlan, and on April 1, 1977, they became residents of the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan. After Mr Christensen died on May 18, 1977, she continued to live at the Baptist Memorial Home. She was an inactive member since 1975, of the Immanuel Lutheran church in Harlan. She died Friday, Oct. 7, 1983 at Myrtue Memorial hospital in Harlan at the age of 85 years, 10 months, 15 days.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by three brothers, James, Paul and Richard and one sister, Bernice. She is survived by two sons Valen of Defiance and Homer John of Columbia, Ala.; one daughter, Elinor (Mrs Russ) Juhl of Denison; 18 grandchildren and 29 great grandchildren; two sisters, Blanche (Mrs Ellis) Gearhart of Harlan; and Ina (Mrs Kie) Petersen of Kimballton; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Monday, Oct. 10, 1983, at Pauley Funeral Home, Harlan with Dr. Larry LaVelle of the First United Methodist church in Harlan, officiating. Burial was in the Harlan cemetery, Harlan, with Roger Juhl, Carlin Jensen, Derald Carter, Dick Mulligan, Bruce Christensen and Steve Christensen serving as casketbearers.

Pauley Funeral Home in Harlan was in charge of arrangements.