

The Life Story of --

ELLEN ERICKSON, 95

Ellen Erickson, daughter of Oley Edward and Dorothea Erickson, was born in a long cabin in Woodward, on Dec. 1, 1880. At the age of one year she moved by covered wagon with her parents, two brothers and two sisters to Shelby county on a farm near Kimballton. It was here she grew to adulthood. At the age of 18, she left the farm and went to Des Moines, where she lived for four years with Mr and Mrs John Mac Vicar. He was the mayor of Des Moines at that time. She then lived with Mr and Mrs Douglas Fleming who managed the Savery Hotel in Des Moines. She was given a job as night cashier in the hotel cafeteria to earn her room and board while attending Business College. After completing Business College, she worked for the Des Moines Life Insurance Co. for three years while continuing her night job at the hotel since salaries were so low in those days. She was then employed by the National Life Insurance Co. which is now the National Travelers Insurance Co. She was with this company for 40 years before retiring on Sept. 1, 1948. She then moved to Marion and made her home with Nelson and Julia Fleming. In Nov. of 1965, after the deaths of Mr and Mrs Fleming, she moved to Harlan, to be near her relatives. Ellen died at Myrtue Memorial hospital in Harlan on March 7, 1976 at age 95 years, three months and 6 days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by five brothers, Oluf, John, Julius, Joseph and Anton and by three sisters, Katie, Mary and Clara. She is survived by 25 nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held from Pauley Funeral Home in Harlan, Wednesday, March 10, 1976, with Rev. Larry LaVelle, pastor of the First United Methodist church, officiating. Burial was in the Elk Horn cemetery in Elk Horn, with Donald Ferry, Richard Ferry, Dale Erickson, David Erickson, H. Rand Petersen and Peter Steenhusen, Jr. serving as casketbearers.