

Eletha M. Christensen

April 25, 1914-December 28, 1995

HARLAN - Eletha Marie Christensen, daughter of Chris M. and Emma Marie Rasmussen Petersen was born April 25, 1914 at Jacksonville. She grew up on the family farm attending country grade school, graduating from Harlan High School with the class of 1932. During high school she received normal training and then taught school for one year.

June 3, 1934, she married Earl M. Christensen at 8:30 a.m. in the studio of the WOW radio station by Dr. R.R. Brown of the Christian Missionary Alliance Tabernacle in Omaha. To this union four children were born. They farmed in the Irwin and Kirkman area for over 45 years. They took up flying in the 1940's and Eletha was the first lady to make a solo flight at the Harlan Municipal Airport. They traveled in 46 states, Canada, Mexico and Europe. She made two trips to Nigeria to visit Carol and Keith Plate on the mission field. They retired from farming in 1975 and moved to Harlan in 1981. She was a charter member of Grace Baptist Church in Harlan and very active in the building of the new church and several of the church committees. She died Dec. 28, 1995 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Omaha at age 81 years, eight months and three days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Earl, June 16, 1986, and a brother, Mark Roland Petersen. She is survived by her children - Stanley (Joyce) Christensen of Harlan; Bonnie (Myron) Sorensen of Harlan; Kenneth (Lois) Christensen of Irwin, Carol (Dr. Keith) Plate of Iowa City; 15 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren; sisters - Rhoda Graves of Harlan; Delta (Palmer) Wiuff of Harlan; Berdine (Jack) Harris of Newport Beach, CA; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 30, 1995 at the Grace Baptist Church in Harlan with Pastor Brent Smith officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Curt Christensen, Kyle Christensen, Joel Christensen, Ronald Christensen, Kevin Christensen, Dean Christensen, Daniel Plate, Dean Uhlenberg and David Plate casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.