

## ✓ Letha Priest Campbell, 87

*April 12, 1912 – Sept. 6, 1999*

**OAKLAND** – Letha Arlene Priest Campbell was born April 12, 1912, east of Oakland, daughter of Espy and Icy Mae Johnson Inman. Her parents died when she was very young and she was taken care of by her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Inman. She graduated from Oakland High School in 1930. She attended the Methodist Church and taught Sunday School there for many years.

Letha taught country school for seven years before her marriage to Harold Priest of Hancock. They lived on the Priest farm until Harold went into the service in 1942. They spent one and a half years in Norman, OK, where Harold was in the Navy and Letha was a chauffeur for the Navy. They moved to Oakland, CA, in 1943. Their son, Harry, was born in King City, CA. After the war was over in 1945, they returned to the farm near Hancock. Harold died in 1952. Letha resumed teaching school for many years, taking courses from Drake and Omaha University. She moved to Avoca in 1961 and operated a flower shop with her son until 1968. Her son, Harry, bought the Oakland Hotel and they operated a flower shop there. She moved to Glass Court Terrace in Oakland in 1982 and lived there until she moved to Oakland Manor in 1998. She helped organize both the Federated Garden Club and the Women's Federated Club of Hancock. She was a state judge of the Garden Club Show, a county chairman of the Women's Federated Club and was instrumental in establishing the Oakland Historical Society. She died at Oakland Manor Sept. 6, 1999, at age 87 years, four months and 24 days.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Harold; two brothers, William Inman and Ervin Inman; and by a sister, Iva Killion. Survivors include her son, Harry Priest (Orvetta) of Avoca; one grandson, Joel Priest; one granddaughter, Stephanie (Dean) Monahan; a step daughter, Marilyn (Willard) Fritz of Oakland; a stepson, Charles Campbell (Mary Jo) living in Arizona; step grandchildren, Marshall (Karen) Fritz, Oakland; Susan (Tom) Baxa, Falls City, NE; Kristin (Richard) Turner, California; Annette (Dennis) Cooney, Altoona; Kaleigh (Dan) Wilson, Oakland and Regina (Brad) Cleveland, Oakland; 14 great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 9, 1999, at the First Christian Church, Oakland, with Rev. Ted H. Welch, Sr. officiating. Burial was in the Farm Creek Cemetery, Henderson. Casket bearers were Tom Gracey, Wayne Jacobsen, Bob Jorgensen, Rodney Osbahr, Byron Martin and Larry Knop. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.