

Martha Gaer, 80

Sept. 27, 1923 - May 25, 2004

ATLANTIC – Martha Neil Gaer was born Sept. 27, 1923, in Fulton, KY, to H.B. and Odie (Caldwell) Houston. After graduating from Fulton High School in 1941, she attended Peabody College and Lipscomb College in Nashville, TN, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, CA, in 1946.

June 4, 1946, Martha married Warren Gaer who was the football coach at Pepperdine University. They moved to Des Moines in 1949 where Warren was the football coach at Drake University and Martha was a homemaker as well as a grade school teacher. In September 1959, the Gaers moved to Atlantic where Warren was associated with Walnut Grove Products Company and Martha was a homemaker and worked part time at Olive's Apparel Shop. Martha attended both the Redline and Atlantic Churches of Christ. She was active in community organizations such as TeleCare, a volunteer with Cass County Memorial Hospital and a fund-raiser for the building of Heritage House. She died May 25, 2004, at Heritage House in Atlantic, at age 80.

She is preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Shirley; and her husband, Warren, who died January of 1997. Martha is survived by two sons, Doug Gaer of Atlantic and Kent (Joann) Gaer of West Des Moines; three grandchildren, David (Anne) of Des Moines; Steve (Sally) of West Des Moines; and Kevin (Courtney) of West Des Moines; seven great grandchildren; and other relatives.

Services were held May 28, 2004, at the Roland Funeral Home in Atlantic, with Jason Zaiger of the Atlantic Church of Christ officiating. Burial was in the Redline Cemetery adjacent to the Redline Church of Christ.