

Ethel A. Gearhart, 78

March 5, 1922 – May 11, 2000

HARLAN – Ethel Arlene Gearhart, daughter of Elmer and Esteline (Storer) Storey, was born March 5, 1922, in Stanton. She was baptized at Malvern Methodist Church in Malvern, and was confirmed at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Harlan.

Ethel married Weldon "Pat" Gearhart Oct. 14, 1938, in Maryville, MO. They were the parents of 11 children. After their marriage, they lived in Omaha, while he attended Creighton University. They moved to Harlan in 1955. She was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church Guild, past president of Church Women United, member of Myrtue Memorial Hospital Auxiliary all of Harlan. In addition, she was a volunteer for the Harlan Community Schools. She died May 11, 2000, as the result of an automobile accident north of Harlan, at age 78 years, two months and six days.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister, Leone, and brother, Lewis. Survivors include her husband, Pat of Harlan; her children, Patsy (Douglas) Clay of Pasadena, CA; Metta (Jim) Korte of St. Louis, MO; Harry Gearhart (Sandy) of Stillwater, OK; Delene (John) Holt of West Palm Beach, FL; Mary (Dennis) Hilger of Creston; Susie (David) Knudsen of Kenai, AK; Sally Gearhart of Walnut Creek, CA; Margaret (John) Kalal of Modesto, CA; Kathleen (Larry) Rizzo of Kansas City, MO; Weldon Gearhart, Jr. (Kristl) of Trenton, MO; Lois (Tom) McElderry of Co. Bluffs; 24 grandchildren; 17 great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 15, 2000, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan, with Reverend Canon Glenn Rankin and Reverend Carol Tookey officiating. Burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Omaha, with Mike Hilger, David Knudsen, Larry Rizzo, Dennis Hilger, John Kalal, Tom McElderry and Jim Korte honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Wil Buttry, Weldon Gearhart, Jr., Pat Gearhart, John Gearhart, Ben Buttry and Harry Gearhart. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.