

Elsie Graves, 95 ✓

Oct. 26, 1908 - March 27, 2004

AVOCA – Elsie Minnie Graves, the daughter of Anton and Maren Christensen Nelson, was born Oct. 26, 1908, in Shelby. She was baptized and confirmed at the Shelby church in Shelby. She attended Shelby schools and was a member of the graduating class of 1926.

June 11, 1930, Elsie married Ellsworth V. Graves. To this union, four children were born. After their marriage, they lived in Harlan. She worked at the Harlan Newspaper for many years. She also was a correspondent for the Omaha World Herald, the Nonpareil and the Des Moines Register. She was awarded nine Golden Globe Awards for poetry. She was a school teacher at rural schools for two years. In 1957, she moved to California and worked at Escondido Cement Works as an office manager and bookkeeper until retirement in 1984. In 1986, she moved back to Harlan and resided in Westridge Apartments until 2001, when she became a resident of the Avoca Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. She was a member of the United Methodist Church in Harlan and the BPW Club. She died March 27, 2004, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 95 years, five months and one day.

In addition to her parents, Elsie was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters, Kate Pedersen, Mary Therkildsen, Sena Hansen, Christine Frederickson, Martha Schuemann, Arthur Nelson and Edwin Nelson, and their spouses; a grandson, Brian Graves; and a son-in-law, Keith Allen. Survivors include her children, Nancy Allen of Avoca; Cy Graves (Kathleen) of Placentia, CA; Chuck Graves (Sharon) of Costa Mesa, CA; Roger Graves (Margaret) of Cupertino, CA; 14 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 31, 2004, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Harlan, with Rev. Ed Frank clergy. Casket bearers were Richard Joy, Terry Holdren, Bob Christensen, David Christensen and Vince Krantz. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery.

