

Betty Lou Olsen, 82

Oct. 30, 1919 – March 7, 2002

HARLAN – Betty Lou Olsen, daughter of Mike and Marie (Jensen) Nelson, was born Oct. 30, 1919, in Harlan. She attended Harlan schools and graduated from Harlan High School in 1938. After graduation, Betty Lou worked as a secretary for Harlan attorney, Fred Louis.

Sept. 13, 1940, she married Harold R. Olsen in Council Bluffs. The couple farmed in Jackson Township until 1946, when they bought the filling station and garage located in Jacksonville. They renamed the business "Olsen Motor Service", and Betty Lou did the bookkeeping until 1949. In the early 1960's, she began working part-time at the Phelps Flower Shop; she continued her employment there until her retirement in the late 1970's. She became a resident of Little Flower Haven Nursing Home in April, 2001. She was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, and had been active in the church's Ladies Circles when she was younger. She died March 7, 2002, at Little Flower Haven Nursing Home at age 82 years, four months and seven days.

Preceding Betty Lou in death were her parents and one sister, Vance Graham. Survivors include her husband of 61 years, Harold R. Olsen of Harlan; one son, Ronald (Becky) Olsen of Littleton, CO; one sister, Lorraine Brownell of Las Vegas, NV; one grandson, Stephen Olsen of Aurora, CO, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 11, 2002, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, with Pastor Heather Becklin and Pastor Jon Benson officiating. Casket bearers were Norval Larson, Carlyle Larson, Randall Hansen, Don Schmidt, Edwin Olson and Orville Juhler. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.