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Esther Olson, 94

Dec. 5, 1908 - Nov. 14, 2003

HARLAN – Esther Evelyn Olson, daughter of Holger and Nettie (Jorgensen) Pedersen, was born Dec. 5, 1908, in Kimballton. She graduated from Kirkman High School in 1929, and worked as a hired girl until she married.

Oct. 19, 1934, in Denison, Esther married Merlin C. Olson. The couple farmed south of Irwin, until 1951, when they moved to an acreage near Prairie Rose State Park. Merlin died Feb. 25, 1973, in Harlan. Esther was an active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, where she helped with quilting. She died Nov. 14, 2003, at the Manilla Manor at age 94 years, 11 months and nine days.

Preceding Esther in death were her parents; her husband, Merlin Olson; and two brothers, Ralph Pedersen and Russell Pedersen. She is survived by two sons, Glenn (Carol) Olson of Hendersonville, NC and Richard (Sharon) Olson of Ames; one daughter, Irene (Grant) Thayer of Odebolt; one sister, Bernice Johnson of Harlan; one brother, Clifford (Darle) Pedersen of Harlan; seven grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Nov. 17, 2003, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, with Pastor Heather Ploen officiating. Casket bearers were Janet Arnick, Beth McCullough, Jenn Olson, Karen Olson, Lori Olson, Katie Thayer and Kris Thayer. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.