

Wilma Olson, 86

April 23, 1924 - March 4, 2011

HARLAN — Wilma Ann Olson, the daughter of Ernest and Bertha (Kay) Schnack, was born on April 28, 1924 in Harrison County. One year later, the family moved to a farm near Tennant. In 1941 she graduated from Tennant High School where she was a star forward on the basketball team.

Wilma married Edwin Olson on October 20, 1946 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan. Five children were born to this union: Janet, Carol, Wayne, Allan, and Linda. They were lifelong farmers in the Kirkman area. Wilma was employed at Pexton Drug Store prior to marriage and again later for many years, retiring in 1993. She



was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church where she was actively involved in the Women's Circle. Wilma also belonged to WRS (White Ribbon Society) and several bridge clubs. She enjoyed cooking, gardening, polka dancing, and entertaining family and friends. She never lost her sense of humor and always took time to share a few words or a funny story. In July of 2010, Wilma suffered a paralyzing stroke and became a resident of Elm Crest Retirement Home in Harlan. This is where she died on Friday, March 4, 2011 having attained the age of eighty-six years, ten months, and four days.

In addition to her parents, Wilma was preceded in death by her daughter Janet A. Christensen; one sister, Theresa Davis; and three brothers: Elmer, Arnold, and Mervin Schnack. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Edwin Olson of Harlan; two sons, Wayne Olson and his wife Donna of Kimballton and Allan Olson and his wife Andrea of Griswold; two daughters, Carol and her husband Jim Porter of Louisville, KY, and Linda and her husband Jim Weiss of Tucson, AZ; eleven grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; brother Ernie Schnack and his wife Rose Ann of Harlan; and countless other relatives and friends.

Pastor Steven Chellew officiated the 10:30 a.m. funeral service at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan on Monday, March 7, 2011. Burial was held in the Harlan Cemetery with John Olson, Ben Olson, Eric Porter, Brian Olson, Galen Schnack, and Roger Erickson serving as casket bearers. Honorary casket bearers were Marvin Thraen, Willard Olson, Larry Klein, Martin Zaccone, Ron Mosher, Lavon Christensen, and Lowell Howe.

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