

Esther Petersen, 81



HARLAN - Esther Martena Petersen, daughter of Sam and Rosetta (Sorenson) Michaelson, was born Jan. 29, 1909, at Walnut. She attended rural school, and graduated from Harlan High School in 1928, at which time she received her Normal Training Certificate and began teaching rural school in Monroe Township.

March 5, 1936, she married Anton Petersen at the Altamont Baptist Parsonage in Harlan. After their marriage, they farmed in the Shelby county area, and she continued to teach school as well as being a farm wife and homemaker. In 1980, they moved to Harlan, and in April of 1990, she became a resident of the Baptist Memorial Home. It was there that she died on July 24, 1990, at age 81 years, five months and 25 days.

She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in walnut; the church women's organizations; sang in the church choir for many years; taught Sunday school class for 27 years; and was the church pianist and organist; also was a member of the Women's Club of Cuppy's Grove.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one sister, Norma Christensen; and one step-sister, Ila Custer. She is survived by her husband, Anton of Harlan; two sisters, Geraldine (Mrs William) Jensen and Gertrude (Mrs Lowell) Jensen both of Monrovia, CA.; two brothers, John and George Michaelson both of Monrovia; a step-sister, Marjorie (Mrs Ralph) Hansen of Walnut and a step-brother, James Mortensen; nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held July 26, 1990 at Pauley funeral Home in Harlan with Rev. Roger Crawford of Bethel Baptist Church in Harlan officiating. Burial was in Harlan cemetery with Ronald Mortensen and Norman Mathiasen serving as honorary casketbearers. Serving as casketbearers were Louie Troll, Eddie Holtz, Darrell Krohn, Dewey Linden, Horace Graves, and Harry Andersen.