



Ruth Potter, 89

Nov. 20, 1905 - Sept. 9, 1995

Harlan - Ruth Neff Potter, daughter of George Benson and Vernie Elizabeth (Deen) Neff, was born Nov. 20, 1905 on a farm in Monroe Township, Shelby County. She graduated from Walnut High School as valedictorian of her class, attended Ward Belmont College and graduated from the University of Iowa in 1927 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

June 14, 1928 she married J. Bruce Potter at Walnut. To this union one son was born, Tom Potter. Her piano and organ teaching career began in 1922 and ended at the Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn, in 1994. She has taught more than 1500 students who now live in Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Alaska, Saudi Arabia, England, Germany and all over the United States including lawyers, a bishop, priests, college professors, doctors and of course many piano teachers. She was a 72 year member of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority at Iowa

City, the Des Moines Chapter of the National Society of Arts and Letters, Alpha Delphian Society of Harlan, and the Shelby County Historical and Genealogical Society. She was a past matron of Eastern Star of which she was a member for more than sixty-five years, holding various offices, past Grand Organist and District Instructor for Eastern Star. She was past president of the Iowa Federation Music Clubs and held many offices in the Iowa Music Teachers Association. She served as organist for over twenty-five years at the Congregational Church in Harlan and was the accompanist for Harlan's "Messiah". July 12, 1986 the city of Harlan observed "Ruth Potter Day" to honor a piano teacher of nearly sixty-six years then. She had been a resident of Salem Lutheran Nursing Home in Elk Horn for the past two years. She died at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Co. Bluffs Sept. 9, 1995 at age eighty-nine years, nine months and twenty days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Bruce in 1969. Survivors include her son, Tom Potter (Carolyn) of Richardson, TX; three grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 12, 1995 at First United Methodist Church in Harlan with Rev. Paul Wilcox officiating. Private burial service was held at the Harlan Cemetery with Darrell Burger, Dr. Wing Tai Fung, Traverse Hall, Martin C. Zaccone, Jerry Larson, H. Rand Petersen and Gary Nash honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Tom Potter, Carolyn Potter, Cynthia Potter, David Potter, Margaret Peters, Mike Peters, Mark Anderson, Doris Ann Anderson, Darlene Anderson, Chet Anderson, Helen Wohlenhaus, Zita Engel, Keith Bauer, Maude Bauer, Robert W. Hall, Barry McKinley and Magda McKinley. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.