

Grace Clara Petersen, 93

Dec. 27, 1904 - Oct. 31, 1998

HARLAN - Grace Clara Petersen, daughter of Leroy L. and Clara (Kirby) Gaer, was born Dec. 27, 1904, near Redline. She received her education in Redline Polk Township No. 9 School.

Aug. 18, 1926, she married Gerhart Petersen at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. To this union three children were born, Shirley, Lyle and Arlo. The family lived in various farm houses in the Jacksonville area until 1946, when they purchased a home in Jacksonville and in 1963 bought their son's acreage nearby where they lived until Gerhart's death in 1975. Grace moved to an apartment in Harlan in 1976, where she resided until her death. She was a self-employed paperhanger for many years, continuing to work at her trade until she was 82 years old. She also served as custodian of the Jacksonville Lutheran Church for 25 years. She was a lifetime member of the Redline Church of Christ. While living in Jacksonville she was a member of the Friendship Club. She died Oct. 31, 1998, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 93 years, ten months and four days.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a sister, Elma Doonan; two brothers, Merle and Everett; one grandchild and two great grandchildren. Survivors include her daughter, Shirley (Frank) Alvarez of Kirkman; sons, Lyle Petersen (Wava) of Elk Horn and Arlo Petersen (Barbara) of Bennett; 11 grandchildren; 20 great grandchildren and 11 great great grandchildren; one brother, Lawrence Gaer of Conway, AZ; two sisters-in-law, Doris Gaer of Carlisle and Elma Dent of Harlan; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Nov. 3, 1998, at the Pauley Funeral Home with Tom Gaer officiating. Burial was in the Jacksonville Cemetery with Eugene Gaer, Victor Doonan, Sr., and Ernie Behrend honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Rick Petersen, Lonny Petersen, Larry Petersen, Manuel Herrera, Joel Herrera, Jeremy Herrera, Jerry Beals and Ron Ronfeldt.

