

Mary Townley, 77

Sept. 1, 1917 - March 16, 1995

Harlan - Mary Agnes (Duggan) Townley, was born Sept. 1, 1917 at Elsie, NE. She was the youngest of seven children and suffered the loss of her mother at the age of two years. She attended school in NE and when she was fourteen years old, experienced the death of her father. She spent the greatest share of her childhood with her two aunts, Ellen Duggan and Margaret Duggan. She graduated from St. Patrick's High School in North Platte and then attended St. Mary's College in Omaha. In 1938 she began teaching school in Hershey, NE.

Aug. 7, 1941, she married John Edward Townley in North Platte, NE. One daughter, Mary Suzanne was born to this union. She then taught school for one year in Maxwell, NE. After he entered the military, the family traveled all over the United States where she also taught school. From 1949 until 1952 she taught school at Lebanon, NE and then at Loomis, NE until 1955. She then began teaching at Dalton, NE and in 1962 at Walthill. Aug. 15, 1963 she received her Bachelor of Science in Education from Chadron State Teacher's College and beginning in 1968 taught in the Papillion and LaVista, NE schools until 1979. She was honored in 1973 by the American Elementary Educators Association with an award as Outstanding Elementary School Teacher. After the death of her husband Dec. 6, 1984 she resided in Omaha, and then for five years made her home with her daughter before becoming a resident of the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan July 12, 1989. It was there that she died March 16, 1995 at age 77 years, six months and 15 days.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Mary Ilg May 27, 1991 and her six siblings. She is survived by her son-in-law, Loren Ilg of Harlan; two grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 20, 1995 at the Baptist Memorial Home Chapel in Harlan with Msgr. Edward Kelly officiating. Burial was March 21, 1995 in the Lebanon cemetery at Lebanon, NE with Rev. Daniel J. Pohl officiating. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.