

Jean Thurston, 93

March 14, 1914 - Oct. 2, 2007

HARLAN - Jean Arvilla Henning Thurston was born March 14, 1914, to Fred and Jessie (Rains) Smith in Harlan. She was baptized at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and remained a member of that congregation throughout her lifetime. She attended Harlan Community Schools and graduated with the Class of 1934. After graduation, she worked for her stepfather (E. Olson) at Harlan Contracting as a bookkeeper.

Jean married Maurice "Bill" Henning April 2, 1938, in Boone. Three daughters were born to this union: Jan, Nancy, and Alice. Jean spent 10 years working in the food service department at the Baptist Memorial Home. Maurice died in 1966. Jean was a founder of Mickel's Tuesday Coffee Club, a member of St. Katherine's Guild, serving as their treasurer, and a member of the Eastern Star.

In 1971, Jean married William Thurston in Harlan. She died Oct. 2, 2007, at Myrtle Medical Center at age of 93 years, six months, and 18 days.

In addition to her parents, Jean was preceded in death by her first husband, Maurice Henning; her husband, William Thurston; her sister, Arlene Gould; and her stepbrother, Stellan Olson, and his wife, Iva. She is survived by her daughters, Jan Mendel of Harlan; Nancy (Howard) Wilwerding of Boca Raton, FL; and Alice (John) Evans of Oakley, CA; six grandchildren, Debra (Donny) Lake, Jeanne Hodgden, Dan Wilwerding, Tina Mendel, Billie Jean Ring, and Shane Mendel; 10 great-grandchildren, Jessica Hodgden, Joey Hodgden, Drew Lake, Troy Lake, Alissa Lake, Jenna Jean Lake, B. J. Pauley, Jessica Mendel, Taylor Ring, and Connor Mendel; her cousin, Tommy Rains (Jo Hanna) of Des Moines; her longtime friend, Opal Peavler of Harlan; many nieces and nephews; and other relatives.

A funeral service was held Oct. 6, 2007, with Rev. Glenn Rankin officiating at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Harlan. Casket bearers were Dan Wilwerding, Howard Wilwerding, Joey Hodgden, Fred Olsen, Shane Mendel, and B. J. Pauley. Burial was held at the Harlan Cemetery. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements

