

## Mary Darling, 83

*April 29, 1919 - Dec. 25, 2002*

**IRWIN**—Mary Alice Darling, daughter of Louis Hancock and Bertha Amanda (Stanfield) Ramey, was born April 29, 1919, in Council Bluffs. She attended school at Thomas Jefferson and was a member of the graduating class of 1937. Mary continued her education at Wayne State, earning her teachers certificate and later attended Dana College, receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in 1971. Prior to marriage, she taught elementary for one year in Page, NE, and two years in Irwin. She taught at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Earling, from 1968 to 1980.

June 7, 1942, she married Wayne Darling in Council Bluffs.

After their marriage, three children were born, Paula, Jeff and Connie. Mary farmed along side Wayne for many years. She was a member of various organizations. She was an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma, a society of teachers and the Irwin Library Club. Mary was also a member of the Irwin Methodist Women, Nishnabotna Genealogy, and the Shelby County Extension Family Living Council. She was awarded the Homemaker of the Year for Shelby County and she was instrumental in creating the Irwin 4-H program. She died Dec. 25, 2002, at the Manilla Manor at age 83 years, seven months and 26 days.

In addition to her parents, Mary was preceded in death by a daughter, Connie, and a sister, Betty Paine. She is survived by her husband, Wayne of Irwin; her children, Paula (Clifford) Behrendt of Harlan; Jeff Darling (Lora) of Kirkman; her grandchildren, Sherry (Carl) Dugan of Harlan; Steve Seipel (Neneth) of Maryville, MO; Lori (Jeremy) Blake of Maryville, MO; Ross Darling of Kirkman; Brock Darling of Kirkman; one great granddaughter, Aurora Blake of Maryville, MO; her sister, Rose Song of Portland, OR; a son-in-law, Bob Seipel of Maryville, MO; sisters-in-law, Edith McKinney of Manilla; Dorothy McMahan of Manilla; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 28, 2002, at Pauley Funeral Home with Rev. Kristine Frank officiating. Burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery in Irwin, with Ross Darling, Carl Dugan, Sherry Dugan, Steve Seipel, Lori Blake, Jeremy Blake, Tom McMahan and Lynn McMahan casket bearers.

