

Bernita Doonan, 88

Feb. 26, 1920 - Nov. 27, 2008

HARLAN — Bernita Yvonne Doonan was born February 26, 1920 to Lloyd and Alma (Gray) Parker in Oakland, IA. She attended country school near Oakland and later graduated from Elk Horn High School. She attended one year of college at Glendale Community College in California.

Bernita was united in marriage to Dale Doonan on October 2, 1940 at the home of her parents near Elk Horn, IA. Two sons were born to this union: Kelly and Jay. They farmed near Elk Horn for a few years before moving to the present farm site in 1944. She was proud that she "could do all that farm homemakers needed to do in my time." She loved being a wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She also enjoyed reading, family history, fishing, music, bird watching and sewing. She was also active on the Family Living Committee and Extension. Her church and church family have always been a very special part of her life. She was baptized and confirmed at the Sharon United Methodist Church. In 1934 she became a member of Monroe Chapel Methodist Church. She was a longtime church school teacher, a member and officer of United Methodist Women, church historian, pianist and United Methodist Builders member. She was an especially gifted writer. She kept a daily diary and in addition wrote in her journal her thoughts, favorite scripture and prayers, her beliefs, memories and commentaries. She shared her gift of writing and her wisdom in countless notes to so many. Bernita died November 27, 2008 while in hospice care at Salem Nursing Home in Elk Horn, IA, having attained the age of eighty-eight years, nine months and one day.



In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Dale Doonan, son Jay Doonan, sister Lorna Kinney and brother Roger Parker. She is survived by her son Kelly Doonan and his wife Judi of Harlan, IA; daughter-in-law Teresa Doonan of Harlan, her grandchildren: Greg Doonan and his wife Stephanie of Ankeny, IA, Stace Doonan and his wife Emily of Ankeny, Scott Doonan and his wife Renée of Eagle River, AK and Angie and her husband Brian Gabel of Urbandale, IA; her great grandchildren: Alana and Mia Doonan, Gavin Doonan, Brooke Doonan and Jaycie Gabel; her sister Phyllis and her husband George Marshall of Council Bluffs, IA; her brother Lloyd Wray Parker and his wife Pat of Colorado; sisters-in-law: JoAnn Parker of Elk Horn, IA and Loretta and her husband Arnold Petersen of Atlantic, IA; many other relatives and a host of friends.

A funeral service was held on Monday, De-

cember 1, 2008 with Pastor Dave Swinton officiating the 10:30 AM service at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Harlan, IA. Casket bearers were Greg and Stephanie Doonan, Stace and Emily Doonan, Scott and Renee Doonan, and Angie and Brian Gabel with interment held at the Harlan Cemetery.

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