



Lela Evelyn Ferry, 86

May 7, 1911 - Feb. 2, 1998

HARLAN - Lela Evelyn Ferry, daughter of Luke Emerson and Mary Hulda (Obrecht) Heflin, was born May 7, 1911, in Center Township, Shelby County. She attended Windy Knoll School, located near the family home. In 1929, Lela graduated from Harlan High School and began teaching at Polk #6 Country School.

It was there that she met Marvin Leo Ferry. The couple married Feb. 8, 1933, in Shelby County. They began farming and their son, Ron, was born in 1934. Marvin died from encephalitis Aug. 8, 1935. Following Marvin's death, Lela and Ron lived in California for a year before returning to Iowa. She worked at various jobs, and kept house for her father until his death in 1963. For many years she attended summer classes at Drake University, Des Moines, and in 1964, received her B.S. degree in education. Altogether, she taught for 25 years in Polk, Lincoln and Center Townships, as well as Tennant and Harlan schools. She retired from teaching in the early 1970's, and then ran The Yarn Cellar out of her home. In 1987, she moved to the Elm Crest Apartments in Harlan, and later in February, 1997, became a resident of the Baptist Memorial Home. Lela was a member of the First Methodist Church in Harlan, where she served as a greeter and was active with the United Methodist Women. She died Feb. 2, 1998, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 86 years, eight months and 26 days.

Preceding her in death were her parents; her husband, Marvin Leo Ferry; three brothers, Paul Heflin, Jay Heflin and Gaillard Heflin; and one sister, Helen Nelson. Survivors include one son, Ron (Pat) Ferry of Urbandale; two grandchildren, Cindy (John) Reese of Des Moines and Greg (Gayle) Ferry of Waukee; three great grandchildren, Beth Reese, Allison Reese and Brett Ferry; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 6, 1998, at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan, with Rev. Paul Wilcox officiating. Casket bearers were Warren Poldberg, Galen Ahrenholtz, Thomas Hansen, Jack Noble, Jack Christensen and John Reese. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Burmeister Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be sent to the First United Methodist Church and the American Cancer Society.