

Ruby Ferry, 100

Nov. 12, 1902 - Jan. 18, 2003

IRWIN – Ruby Marvel Ferry was born on a farm east of Kirkman, Nov. 12, 1902. She was one of eight children born to Hans S. and Katie (Erickson) Petersen. She was a graduate of Kirkman High School, and attended Normal Teachers Training in Harlan. Following teacher's training, she taught country school at Polk #2 and #6 in Shelby County. Ruby's transportation to school was a buggy pulled by ponies.

Feb. 23, 1923, she married Ray L. Ferry in Harlan. To this union five children were born. Following her wedding, Ruby was a homemaker. She was an active member of the Shelby County Garden Club and designed many arrangements for the club's district flower shows for the Shelby County Fair. Ruby was a drummer in the Kitchen Band organized for the Irwin Centennial in 1981. Following the centennial celebration, she continued to perform with the band at retirement homes and other community events. She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin, where she was active in the Women's Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. She frequently served on the Visiting Committee and was involved in the Lutheran Mission Project for piecing and tying quilts. A member of the Shelby County Historical Society, she often served as hostess for the museum, as well as, offering her volunteer support in many other ways. She was also a charter member of the Marsh Homemakers Township Club. Ruby died Jan. 18, 2003, at Manilla Manor at age 100 years, two months and six days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ray Ferry, Aug. 28, 2000; infant daughter, Brenda Gale; brothers, Wilmer, Vern, Archie and Victor Petersen; and sister, Myrtle Miller. She is survived by her children, Betty (Don) Zemanek of Cincinnati, OH; Don Ferry (Jean) of Irwin; Patricia L. (Peter) Steenhusen of Irwin; Richard Ferry (Julienne) of Harlan; 12 grandchildren; 30 great grandchildren; six great-great grandchildren; sisters, Thelma Petersen of Harlan and Marjorie Scheetz of Waukegan, IL; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 21, 2003, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin, with the Revs. Jon Benson and Ted Sleck officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Kirkman, with Janie Mauli, Susan Osland, Lori Rankin, Becky Rademacker, Lana Leuschen and Richelle Richardson honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Tom Petersen, Kirk Steenhusen, Brandt Ferry, James Zemanek, Roderick Ferry and Jeffrey Zemanek. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

