

Dorothy Firebaugh, 78

Dec. 30, 1924 - May 22, 2003

BELLINGHAM, VA – Dorothy Mae Firebaugh was born the second child of Albert Charles Gray and Lena Agnes Book Miller Gray, Dec. 30, 1924. Dorothy grew up and lived in Harlan for many years attending, with her brother, Clyde C. Gray, old Park Elementary School, Harlan Junior High School, and Harlan High School, graduating in 1942. An avid skater, it was through roller skating that she met Gordon Dale Firebaugh, her future husband. She worked in a variety of local businesses including the Golden Rule, Scott's Dry Cleaners and the Harlan A&P.

In 1943, Dorothy and Gordon were married in Maryville, MO. The couple began married life on a farm five miles north of Kimballton in Shelby County. To this union was born one son, Dennis Firebaugh in July 1944. In the closing days of World War II, Gordon was inducted into the armed forces where he subsequently died Sept. 3, 1945, at age 22 years. He is buried in the Harlan Cemetery. Dorothy never remarried. In Harlan, Dorothy lived at the Gray family home at 505 Dye Street taking care of her aging parents and young son. She worked for RC Booth Enterprises. After the 1958 death of her father, Al Gray, she moved her mother, Lena, and her son, Dennis, to San Diego in 1960, where they settled in Imperial Beach, CA. Dorothy worked for Rohr Corporation for 25 years retiring in 1985 from her job as an executive secretary. She moved to Washington state and settled in Bellingham where her son and his family lived. Dorothy died May 22, 2003, in Bellingham, WA, at age 78 years, four months and 23 days.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon Dale Firebaugh, and her parents, Albert and Lena Gray. She is survived by her brother, Clyde Gray of Phoenix, AZ; her son, Dennis Firebaugh of Tucson, AZ; her grandson, Geoffrey Firebaugh of Nashville, TN; and her daughter-in-law of many years, Charlotte Ryers of Bellingham, WA; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 27, 2003, at the Pauley Jones Funeral Home with Rev. Ed Frank officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Art Linde, Charlie Summers, Glen Arnold, Vern Buschkamp, Doug Baker and Roger Andersen casket bearers.