

Thelma Elizabeth "Toots" Heflin, 81

May 18, 1913 - Mar. 1, 1995

Harlan - Thelma Elizabeth "Toots" Heflin, daughter of Clifford and Elizabeth (Mehaffey) Cade, was born May 18, 1913, in Grafton, NE. Her family moved to Shelby County in 1916. She graduated from Harlan High School in 1929.

June 2, 1931, she married Gaillard R. Heflin in Harlan. The couple farmed for many years in Center Township, Shelby County. For four years, Gaillard and Toots participated as volunteers at Heifer Project International, in MA and AR. Gaillard died Dec. 9, 1993, in Harlan. She became a resident of the Baptist Memorial Home in the fall of 1994. For years, she wrote a Harlan Newspaper column, "Down on the Farm," and also hosted a program called "Traveling with Toots" on KJAN Radio.

For over 60 years, she was an active volunteer and member of many organizations. She generously gave of her talents to 4-H, Eastern Star Lebanon Chapter #8, foreign exchange students, Church Women United, Shelby County Farm Bureau, Shelby County Extension Service, the First United Methodist church and United Methodist Women, Band Parents, PTA, Harlan Community School Board, Baptist Memorial Home, Shelby County Association for Retarded Children, Harlan Literary Club, the Iowa Historic Board, and the Shelby County Historical Society, of which she was a Charter Member. She was honored with many awards, including 1992 Harlan "Citizen of the Years." She was presented the *Wallaces Farmer's* "Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Award," and was inducted into the Shelby County Fair Hall of Fame in 1990. She was a Harlan Mother of the Year, and had



received the Harlan Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award. She was presented with the Governor's Volunteerism Award in 1992. She died March 1, 1995 at Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan at age 81 years, 9 months and 11 days. Her body was donated to the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in Des Moines, IA.

Preceding her in death were her parents, and her husband, Gaillard. Survivors include two sons, Kenneth (Nancy) Heflin of Redlands, CA and Dennis (Linda) Heflin of Harlan; one daughter, Mary Beth (John) Higbie of Irving, TX; one sister, Cecil Walker of Denison; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held March 3, 1995 at First United Methodist Church in Harlan, with Rev. Paul Wilcox and Dr. Ken Heflin officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Shelby County Historical Society, the First United Methodist Church in Harlan, or Heifer Project International in Rutland, MA. Burmeister Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.