

Marjorie McNerney, 87

June 24, 1916 - March 31, 2004

ATLANTIC – Marjorie Helen (Beavers) Howard-McNerney was born June 24, 1916, in Villisca, to Joseph Elvin and Mabel Clair (Higgins) Beavers. She was the third of five girls who grew up on the farm near Villisca. She attended country school and graduated from Villisca High School in 1933. Upon graduation, she worked various jobs to help her family during the depression years.

She met Bernal Forest Howard and they were married Aug. 29, 1937, in Clarinda. To this union three children were born, Lonnie, Linnea and Lorrain. The family moved to Atlantic in 1944, and Marjorie was baptized May 2, 1948, at the First Christian Church. Bernal was paralyzed in a car accident in 1956, at which time Marjorie was working full time at the Federal Land Bank, kept the family mechanics shop open and took care of Bernal at home. Bernal died June 10, 1961, and in September of 1961 Marjorie moved to Harlan with the Federal Land Bank.

She married John McNerney Sept. 18, 1971. While living in Harlan, she retired from the Federal Land Bank in January of 1982, after serving as an office assistant, office manager and loan closing clerk for a total of 27 years. She served on the first council formed at the Harlan Congregate mealsite. Marjorie and John helped deliver Meals on Wheels, and helped with the local Share Program for several years. Marjorie was very active in the First Christian Church in Harlan and held various offices including the office of Secretary to the Board from 1979 to 1999, and elected to the office of Treasurer from 1981 to 1999. Marjorie and John both were active and participated in their church activities and performed in the Easter Passion plays for several years. John died March 27, 1992, and in 1999 Marjorie moved from Harlan to Brookridge Apartments in Atlantic to be closer to family. She died March 31, 2004, at the Creighton Medical Center in Omaha, NE, after a brief illness at age 87.

Marjorie was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Mable Beavers; her husband, Bernal Howard; her husband, John McNerney; one daughter, Lorrain (Howard) Smith; one sister, Leta Greenfield; two brothers-in-law, Clifford Stackhouse and Wayne Roberts. She is survived by a son, Lonnie Howard of Los Angeles, CA; a daughter, Linnea (Mike) Murphy of Lewis; a son-in-law, Larry Smith of Anita; seven grandchildren and their spouses, Dianna (Tom) Williams, Bill (Alison) Murphy, Bob Murphy, Kelly (John) Snyder, Korie (Jordie) Harrell, Tracy (Brad) Suhr, Brent (MaLisa) Smith; and 14 great grandchildren, Chris, Stephanie, Meghan and Taylor Williams; Dillon and Nathan Snyder; Kory and Cameron Harrell; Kristi and Shane Suhr; MaKayla, MaKarlie, MaKinzie and Dalton Smith; three sisters, Esther Roberts of Milwaukie, OR; Irene Stackhouse of Clarinda; and Ardith (Neal) Earl of Rosemund, CA; a brother-in-law, Paul Greenfield of Villisca; cousins and a close family friend, Armando De La Rosa.

Funeral services were held April 5, 2004, at the United Church of Christ in Atlantic. Burial was at the Clarinda Cemetery. Roland Funeral Home in Atlantic in charge of arrangements.

