

Shelby News

Harlan Tribune

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Former Portsmouth nun dies

Sister Mellita McQuaid, OSB, 93, of Mt. St. Scholastica in Atchison, KS, died Oct. 31 in Atchison. Mass of the Resurrection was held Nov. 3 in the choir chapel, with burial in the monastery cemetery.

Sister Mellita was born June 11, 1910, in Seneca, KS. She lived there until she entered Mt. St. Scholastica June 2, 1929. She made her monastic profession Jan. 1, 1931 and celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1981.

Sister Mellita taught in elementary schools staffed by the Benedictine Sisters in Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Adkinson, Omaha, and Papillion, NE, and Portsmouth and Des Moines. In many places, she was also the school librarian. Since her retirement in 1978, she has served in internal ministry at the monastery. Her sister, Sister Eileen, was also a member of the Mount community. Sister Mellita was a cousin of Janiece Rau's father, the late Laurence Schmidt of Harlan.