

## Pearl Nelsen, 91

*Dec. 6, 1912 - Sept. 2, 2004*

**HARLAN** – Pearl Irene Nelsen, the daughter of Clarence C. and Nora Alice Pearl Smith Cunningham, was born Dec. 6, 1912, on a farm northeast of Shelby. She attended country school her first year northeast of Shelby and later attending second through eleventh grade at the Shelby Consolidated School in Shelby.

Nov. 23, 1933, Pearl married Harvey Nelsen at the Harlan Methodist parsonage. After their marriage, they started farming in Pottawattamie County. Two sons and one daughter were born to this union. After nine years, they purchased a farm northeast of Shelby, where they farmed for 27 years. In 1969, they retired and sold the farm and made their home in Harlan. They remained at their home until moving to the Westridge Apartments in Harlan in August 2001. Pearl and Harvey celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary Nov. 23, 2001. Pearl was a member of the Shelby Lutheran Church until she moved to Harlan where they joined the First United Methodist Church and was a member of the Builders Class. She was also a member of the Silver Creek Social Society, Neighborhood Club, northeast of Shelby, and the Rebecca Lodge in Shelby. She died Sept. 2, 2004, at the Avoca Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at age 91 years, eight months and 27 days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Harvey, who died May 3, 2002, and two sisters, Ethel Delph and Vera Krohn. Pearl is survived by her children, Melvin Nelsen (Myrna) of Shelby; Norman D. Nelsen (Sandy) and Darlene (Wayne) Arnold, all of Harlan; nine grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; one sister, Gladys Sams of Avoca; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 6, 2004, at the United Methodist Church in Harlan, with Rev. Ed Frank officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Ronald Krohn, Gary Sams, Darrell Krohn, Donna Larsen, Alice Jean Shriver, Allan Sams, Evelyn Foster and Lois Delph honorary casket bearers and Brian Arnold, Bob Harmsen, Steve Nelsen, Dan Nelsen, Clay Dille, David Andersen, Kenneth Berg and Allan Ickes casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

