

Phoebe Skinner, 93

Jan. 2, 1913 - Nov. 30, 2006

HARLAN — Phoebe Harriett Swanson Skinner, daughter of Charles and Phoebe Dowd Osborn, was born Jan. 2, 1913, in Council Bluffs. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Francis Catholic Church. She attended St. Francis Schools where she graduated from high school in 1930. After high school, Phoebe worked for a short time at the Chieftain Hotel, The Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce and Dr. Beaumont.



In 1934, Phoebe married Elmer Swanson at St. Francis Catholic Church in Council Bluffs. After their marriage they made their home in Council Bluffs where they operated Swanson Window Craft for over 35 years. Their shop, located on Broadway, specialized in all types of blinds, drapery goods and accessories. She continued to be a member of St. Francis until the church was closed. She then became a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. After Elmer's death in 1977, Phoebe continued to make her home in Council Bluffs.

Phoebe married Harry Skinner, a retired photographer, Sept. 5, 1981, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Council Bluffs. After their marriage, they continued to make their home in Council Bluffs until 1991, when they moved to Harlan. While living in Harlan, they became members of St. Michael's Catholic Church, where Phoebe belonged to the women's guild. July 11, 1997, Harry died suddenly at his home in Harlan. After his death, she continued to make her home in Harlan until becoming a resident of Little Flower Haven Nursing Home in February of 2003. She died at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs, Nov. 30, 2006, at age 93 years, 28 days and 10 months.

In addition to her husbands, Phoebe was preceded in death by a grandson David, and two brothers, Charles and Richard. Survivors include her two daughters: Harriett (Phil) Graeve, of Defiance, and Barbara Colton of Indianola; six grandchildren; three great grandchildren; three step children, H. Edward Skinner, Sandra McDonald, and Gail Thompson; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Dec. 4, 2006 at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Rev. Robert Hoefler officiating. Burial was in the Ridgewood Cemetery in Council Bluffs with John Doyle, Jim Doyle, Kevin Graeve, Mike Doyle, Richard Graeve and Kirk Graeve casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.