

Helen Wetzel, 99

April 4, 1902 - Nov. 3, 2001

IRWIN - Helen Myrtle, daughter of Frank and Doris Kahl Wendt, was born April 4, 1902, near Irwin in Douglas Township, Shelby County. She attended country school near her home.

Sept. 7, 1921, she married Harry Albert Wetzel in Harlan. Six children were born to this union. They lived seven miles northwest of Manilla until 1932, when they moved to a farm north of Irwin. After 10 years they moved to their farm south of Irwin. Helen was a homemaker. She was a member of the Church of Christ in Irwin, where she was very active. She also belonged to the Polk Improvement Club. After the death of her husband in 1969, she remained on the farm with her two sons, Harry Jr. and Wilbur. In 1992, she moved into an apartment in Irwin. After spending just over a year in a nursing home in Harlan, she became a resident of the Manilla Manor Nursing Home in April of 1997. She died there Nov. 3, 2001, at age 99 years, six months and 30 days.

Besides her husband and parents, she is preceded in death by all her brothers and sisters, Peter and Hans Wendt in infancy, John Wendt, Henry Wendt, Edward Wendt, twins Harry Wendt and Herbert Wendt, Margaret Bargaquast, Anna Bargaquast, Dora Frøes, Emma Fiscus and Alice Kinaman. She is survived by her six children, Harry Wetzel, Jr. (Donna) of Irwin; Helene Barratt of Osceola; Doris (Jack) Mallernee of Hereford, AZ; Wilbur Wetzel (Marcie) of Kirkman; Norma Griffin of Indianola and Alice Haugen of Kerrville, TX; 10 grandchildren; 4 step grandchildren; 7 great grandchildren; 8 step great grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Nov. 7, 2001, at the Church of Christ, Irwin, with Pastor Ted Sieck officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Irwin. Casket bearers were Gaylord Heilesen, George Steenhusen, Roger Ahrenholtz, John L. Steenhusen, Randy Birks and Don Ferry. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.