

THE LIFE STORY OF —

Mabel Gibson

Mabel Barton Gibson, daughter of early pioneers Adolphus W. and Elsie (Sweat) Barton, was born on a farm near Kirkman, on April 15, 1883. She died while visiting her son in Phoenix, Ariz., on Nov. 12, 1976, at age 93 years, 6 months and 27 days. She attended the Kirkman school and grew to adulthood on her parent's farm. She and her five classmates (all girls) comprised the first graduating class from the Kirkman high school in 1900. She was also among the first graduating Home Economics class at Iowa State College in Ames. On April 14, 1907, she married David Gibson at the home of her parents in Kirkman. Two sons were born to this union. After their marriage, Mr and Mrs Gibson farmed in the Kirkman vicinity for a number of years. They then tried their luck at farming in So. Dak., but repeated droughts nearly wiped them out. They returned to Kirkman where they ran the general merchandise store until it burned down. Mabel and Dave carried mail on the Kirkman route with a team and buggy one summer and their home housed the "Miracle Bowl Plant" factory at one time. Mr and Mrs Gibson moved to Harlan in 1941 where they operated the roller skating rink for several years before retiring. After Mr Gibson's death in 1968, Mabel continued to live in Harlan.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by a sister, Elva Elsie Barton and by a brother, Merrills Alanson Barton. She is survived by her sons - Robert Gibson of Phoenix, Ariz., and Rex Gibson of Denver, Colo.; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at Pauley Funeral home in Harlan, on Tuesday, Nov. 16, 1976 with Rev. Larry LaVelle, pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Harlan, officiating. Burial was in the Harlan cemetery, Harlan, with Max Plumb, L. S. Morgan, Jack Knudsen, Vic Christensen, Marvin Rasmussen and Dean Fredericksen serving as casketbearers.