

## Margaret Esther Bence, 95

**SHELBY** - Margaret Esther Bence was born on a farm north of Shelby Dec. 20, 1894, the daughter of William and Sarah Kern Zimmerman. The family later moved to town where she grew to womanhood and attended both grade and high school. She was employed as a telephone operator before her marriage to Clyde W. Howard in 1917. Clyde died in 1918 while in the service for his country. To this union was born a daughter, Ruth Opal who died in infancy.

Feb. 9, 1929, she married Lloyd Bence who preceded her in death Sept. 14, 1964. One son, Duane Allen was born to this union. She joined the Presbyterian Church at a very tender age and was active in all its departments. She moved with her husband and son to Sterling, in 1942 taking her church letter with her. She returned again to Shelby in June of 1972 to make her home, bringing her church letter back with her to her home church. She died Oct. 17, 1990 at North Bay Medical Center in Fairfield at age 95 years, 9 months and 27 days.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands, Clyde and Lloyd; her son, Duane; an infant daughter, Opal; a sister, Anna Frazier and a brother, William Zimmerman. Survivors are her daughter-in-law, Judith Bence of Fairfield, CA.; one grandson; three granddaughters; one brother, Ernest Zimmerman of Harlan; three great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held Oct. 22, 1990 at the Shelby Presbyterian Church. Rev. Vince Nelson, officiated. Burial was in the Shelby cemetery. Knutson Funeral Home in Avoca in charge of arrangements.