

Hazel F. Blair, 99

April 2, 1900 – April 5, 1999

HARLAN – Hazel Fern Blair, daughter of William A. and Samantha Custer Dewey, was born April 2, 1900, in Cass Township, Shelby County, near Portsmouth, and died April 5, 1999, at the Friendship Home in Audubon, at age 99 years and three days. She moved with her family to Bosworth, MO, where she was baptized in the Mud Branch River. She received her education at the Old Mud Branch School. She returned to Harlan, where she was employed at the bakery.

May 14, 1919, she married Percy Milo Blair in Omaha. They lived in Harlan, then later moved to Tennant, where she participated in many church groups and card clubs. They moved to the family farm in Missouri in 1934, and operated the farm until they returned to Harlan in 1938. They started the Farmer's Hatchery which they operated for 25 years. Hazel then was employed at the Harlan Produce until she retired. Percy died Jan. 29, 1988. She sold her home and resided in an apartment until she moved to the Friendship Home in December in 1994. She was a member of the Methodist Church in Harlan and several clubs.

Preceding her in death in addition to her husband were her son-in-law, Herbert Sorensen; her parents; her brother, William Dewey; her sisters, Cecil Fears and Verlee (Muller) Harms; and her brothers-in-law, Glee White and Max Braden. Survivors include her children, Robert (Lois Jean) Blair of Co. Bluffs; Dorothy Sorensen of Iowa City; Arletha (Jim) Hockett of Tennant; Lois (Duane) Schmidt of Audubon; 16 grandchildren; 35 great grandchildren; five great great grandchildren; her brother, Howard Dewey of Independence, MO; her sisters-in-law, Elva White of Harlan and Iva Mae Braden of Portland, OR; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Walter J. Kukkonen April 8, 1999, at Kessler Funeral Home in Audubon. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. The casket bearers were grandsons, Spencer Sorensen, Craig Blair, Keith Blair, Dan Schmidt, Don Sorensen, Jamie Hockett, Terry Schmidt and Dean Schmidt.