

Helen Clark, 83

Aug. 20, 1926 - Sept. 11, 2009

HARLAN — Helen Serena Clark, daughter of Henry and Anna Koester Patten, was born August 20, 1926 in Westphalia. She was baptized at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia, and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Helen worked summers on her parents' farm and in the winters she traveled to Omaha to work. While in Omaha, Helen met her future husband Clyde Calvin Clark.



January 25, 1949, Helen and Clyde were united in marriage at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. Four children were born of this union: Sandy, Diane, Dwight and Doug. After their marriage, they moved several times throughout the Midwest because Clyde was in the US Army. Together they spent ten years farming near Missouri Valley, before moving to Minneapolis, MN, and in 1973, Helen and Clyde moved to Harlan. In 1991, Clyde retired so he and Helen could spend time in Omaha caring for their son Doug who was seriously injured in a work accident. After three years, they returned to Harlan. Clyde passed away on May 22, 2004. On October 12, 2007, Helen made her home at the Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan, and she passed away Friday, September 11, 2009, having attained the age of eighty-three years and twenty-two days.

In addition to her parents, Helen was preceded in death by her husband Clyde; her brothers Tony, Alfred, Frances and Charles, and her sisters Marie, Mathilda and Rita; and her son-in-law Mark Meiners. Survivors include her children, Sandy Clark of Omaha, NE; Diane Meiners of Lincoln, NE; Dwight Clark of Omaha, NE; Doug Clark of Omaha, NE; seven grandchildren: John J. Comerford, Thomas P. Comerford and his wife, Mary; Christy and her husband Mark Puev; Julie and her husband Josh Sovereign; Matt, Wendy and Jamie; eight great-grandchildren: Christopher and Catherine Comerford; Olivia, Owen, Jillian and Genevieve Sovereign; Alexis and Andrew Puev; other relatives and many friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, September 14, 2009, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. Rev. Bob Hoefler celebrated the 10:30 AM service with interment at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Earling. Serving as casket bearers were: John Comerford, Tom Comerford, Mark Puev, and Josh Sovereign.

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