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## Fern V. Duke, 81

March 14, 1915 - March 23, 1996

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**MILFORD** - Fern V. Duke was born March 14, 1915 to Lester and Dagmer Delma (Jorgensen) Fiek at Mentho, WA. Her childhood was spent in Pine River, MN before moving to Harlan in 1928. She attended school up to the eight grade.

Oct. 9, 1930 she married Max Duke at Denison. The couple established their home in Shelby County where her husband engaged in farming until 1948. The couple then moved to Spirit Lake where they purchased a summer resort operating the cabins during the summer months. She was also employed by Berkleys for 24 years during the winter months. She was affiliated with the United Methodist Church. She died March 23, 1996 at the Milford Nursing Center in Milford at age 81.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Max, Oct. 27, 1982; her parents, Lester and Delma; one brother, Ernest; and three great grandchildren, Courtney, Nick and Max. Survivors are her two daughters, Beverly Barratt (Garland) of Irwin and Sharon Wells of Spirit Lake; one son, Thomas E. Duke (Louanna) of Tempe, AZ; 11 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren and one sister, Evelyn Havick of Oakland.

Funeral services were held March 26, 1996 at the Turner Funeral Home Spirit Lake with Rev. James W. Stiles, United Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in the Lakeview Cemetery, Spirit Lake. Casket bearers were Mark Bailey, Jim Barratt, Troy Bornstad, Chris Duke, Jason Duke, Jon Wells, Scott Wells and Tom Wells.