



Rebecca "Rea" Jane Grieder, 94

Jan. 29, 1900 - Aug. 14, 1994

Harlan - Rebecca "Rea" Jane Grieder, daughter of Ed and Lu Emma (Dunlap) Irwin, was born Jan. 29, 1900, in Irwin. She was a descendent of the Irwin family, for which the town of Irwin was named. She grew up near Irwin, and graduated from the Irwin High School in 1919. After attending summer school in Cedar Falls, and receiving her teaching certificate, she taught school for one term.

She married James L. Grieder March 3, 1920, in Co. Bluffs. They farmed for several years, and then moved into Irwin, where Jim served as the town marshal. She helped the sick and the needy, and assisted the town doctor in delivering babies. In 1940, they moved to Harlan, where she was

soon recognized as an accomplished seamstress. After 45 years of marriage, Jim died April 3, 1965.

She served as a volunteer for many organizations. For 38 years, she was the Bloodmobile Canteen Chairman. She also was a Hospital Auxiliary Pink Lady, and served as a Glenwood State Hospital Blue Lady. As an American Legion Auxiliary member, she did volunteer work for the Shelby County Care Facility. She also worked on many fund drives for numerous worthy causes. Her First Christian Church membership was important to her, and she had been recognized for her faithfulness in attendance and work for the church. In 1978 she was honored as Harlan Citizen of the Year. In 1988, she was Mu Xi's Woman of the Year. She died Aug. 14, 1994, at the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan, at age 94 years, 6 months, and 16 days.

Preceding her in death were her parents; her husband, Jim; one brother, Orval; and five sisters, Alice (who died in infancy), Rhoda Mitchell, Agnes O'Brien, Mabel Daleany, and Ilo Schroeder. Survivors include two daughters, Irene (Carl) Holdsworth of Harlan, and Lola (Jim) Matteucci of Pacifica, CA; two sons, Leslie (Edna) Grieder of Harlan, and Ivan Grieder of Fortuna, CA; 14 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; 5 great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Aug. 16, 1994, at Burmeister Funeral Home in Harlan, with Rev. Don Schoepf officiating. Casket bearers were Charles Summers, Sr., Gene Block, Brian Nelson, Glen Arnold, Don Clark, and Jon Burmeister. Burial was in the Harlan cemetery. Burmeister Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.