

Ethel Goans, 103

Aug. 4, 1907 - March 7, 2011

KIRKMAN — Ethel Mae Goans was born on August 4, 1907, to James and Fannie Mae (Matthews) McNear in Anthon. She was baptized at the Methodist Church in Anthon and attended school in Anthon. Ethel had eight children: Lester, Margie, Edward, Richard, Glenn, Rose, Sonny, and Mary Ann. Ethel worked for several years at Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan, the Shelby County Courthouse, and in the summer, at the Shelby County Fairgrounds. She would walk with her children into Harlan to get groceries. She enjoyed mowing the lawn and gardening. She loved to be with her grandkids and great-grandkids. She thoroughly enjoyed life and wanted those around her to enjoy life as well.



She would spend time tearing up bits of paper for the New Year's holiday when the three younger kids and the grandkids would walk through Kirkman at midnight tossing the paper into the air and hollering "Happy New Year"! Ethel retired in 1974 and was able to stay in her own home until 2003 when she moved into Elm Crest Retirement Home. It was there that she died on Monday, March 7, 2011, having attained the age of one hundred three years, seven months, and three days.

Ethel was preceded in death by her parents, husband, children: Lester, Margie, Edward, Richard, and Glenn; brother Lester, sisters Nora and Liza, four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She is survived by her children Rose and her husband Gene Henderson of Atlantic, Sonny Goans and his wife Dixie of Kirkman, and Mary Ann Plott of Council Bluffs; twenty-four grandchildren; twenty-two great-grandchildren; fifteen great-great-grandchildren; other family members and friends.

Chaplain Thomas Williamson officiated the 10:30 a.m. funeral service on Friday, March 11, 2011 at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Harlan. Honorary casket bearers were Larry Andersen, Andy Andersen, Arlyn Oman, Jason Goans, Clint Kienast, Aaron Howe, and Gene McNear. Serving as casket bearers were Jeremy Plott, Gail Andersen, Jim Behrens, Al Petersen, Mitch Daniel, David Plott, Jamie Hess, and Chris Goans. Interment was held at the Rose Hill Cemetery in Kirkman.

*Pauley
Jones*

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