

## Viola Groves, 94 ✓

Feb. 4, 1912 - May 27, 2006

**HARLAN** — Viola Petersen Groves, daughter of Peter and Ella Nelson Petersen, was born Feb. 4, 1912, in Jackson Township, Shelby County near Kimballton. She was baptized and confirmed into the Lutheran Church. She attended Jackson Township No. 6 country school, and grew to adulthood on the family farm. Her father hired her out at age 12 for her first job as a housekeeper for area families. As she grew older, she worked on the farms doing a man's work which involved, among other tasks, lifting heavy cream cans on a dairy route. Viola worked as a waitress in her early years, and also in area grocery stores in Harlan. It was at a grocery store that she met what was to be her future husband, Roman Groves. He was the grocery store manager. Roman entered the military service during WW II so Viola moved to Virginia and Washington D.C. where she worked as a waitress. After the war, Viola moved to California where she met up with Roman again.



Viola married Roman Sept. 10, 1951, in California, where they then made their home. Roman was manager of grocery stores and Viola became employed as a meat wrapper at Lee Brothers Grocery Store. She retired from this occupation after 30 years in 1990. During her lifetime, Viola was known as a very independent person. Her travels to Virginia, Washington D.C. and then to California were by herself in her own car. She collected all kinds of rocks. Her rock collecting took her mountain climbing and adventures in Hawaii, Australia and Mexico. She was fortunate to go deep sea fishing. She was a life member of the Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley. After their retirement, Viola and Roman, made their winter home in Mesa, AZ and the rest of the year in Hayward, CA. After Roman's death Oct. 22, 2000, Viola decided to move back to Harlan. Her rock collection totaling over 500 bags was sold at auction. At age 89, she took and passed her Iowa driver's exam and was awarded an Iowa drivers license. She purchased a home in Harlan. June 2, 2004, she became a resident of Elm Crest Retirement Community. It was here that she died May 27, 2006, at age 94 years, four months and 15 days.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Viola was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters, Anna, Chris, Alvin, Ruth, Floy, Lake and Ceceila. Survivors include her sister, Mayme Rasmussen of Harlan, nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 30, 2006, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home with Pastor Heather Ploen officiating. Burial was in Immanuel Cemetery in Kimballton, with Jerry Baker, Gaylord Rasmussen, Terry Andersen, Emory Petersen, Anker Rasmussen, and Russell Petersen casket bearers.