

Harlan, Iowa News Advertiser, Friday, September 7, 2001,

Mary F. Kohel, 88

Nov. 6, 1912 – Aug. 12, 2001

COUNCIL BLUFFS – Mary Florence Kohel, daughter of Andrew and Rhoda May (Lybarger) Nelson, was born Nov. 6, 1912, in Monte Vista, CO. As a young girl they lived in Missouri, Minnesota and Omaha, NE, where she attended high school.

Jan. 9, 1934, she married James Kohel at Plattsmouth, NE. To this union two children were born. Except for one year in Albion, NE, where they farmed, they lived in Omaha, NE, until 1950 when they moved to rural Council Bluffs. As a young woman Mary worked at the Omaha Meat Packing plants and various other jobs. After moving to Council Bluffs, she worked for many years at the Council Bluffs House of Fabrics. In 1958 they moved to their home on Sherman Avenue in Council Bluffs, where they remained until May 1993 when they became residents of Elm Crest Retirement Home in Harlan. Mary had been a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church of Council Bluffs. She died at Elm Crest Retirement Home Aug. 12, 2001, at age 88 years, nine months and six days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, James, Nov. 14, 2000; sisters, Maria Kohel, Jane Booth, Edith Grundman and Lola Beck, and brothers, Addison, Charles, James and Jessie Nelson. She is survived by a son, Dr. Russell J. Kohel (Joyce) of College Station, TX; one daughter, Joanne E. Nelson (Paul) of Irwin; six grandchildren, Dr. James M. Kohel of Pasadena, CA; Dr. David Kohel of Sidney, Australia; Kathy Kohel of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; Sherry Nelson of Chicago, IL; Michelle Fitch (Robert) of Lewisville, TX and Julie Nelson of Chicago, IL; one sister, Viola Coleman of Council Bluffs; three sisters-in-law, Mary Norlin and Alice Olson, both of Two Harbors, MN, and Helen Koepke (Emil) of Zim, MN; and nieces and nephews.