

Louise Carpenter Louis, 91

Nov. 22, 1911 - Sept. 24, 2003

HARLAN – Louise Carpenter Louis, the daughter of W.B. and Hazel Carpenter, was born Nov. 22, 1911, in Marion. She attended country school, Marion High School, Cornell College, Mount Vernon, and graduated from the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

Nov. 16, 1934, she married Fred Louis, Jr. in the Marion Methodist Church and moved to Harlan, where she resided the rest of her life. They were the parents of two sons, Fred Louis III and John Carpenter Louis. Louise was very active in civic affairs in Harlan. She was a member of the Library Board from 1940-1969, serving as president. She was elected to the Harlan School Board in 1947 and served as president from 1949-1950. Louise was appointed to the City of Harlan Planning Commission in 1953 and remained until 1983. She was the longtime secretary of the commission. In the 1950's, Louise owned and operated a flower shop. During the 1960's she served in Des Moines as a secretary to several legislators. Louise was a member of the Harlan Literary Club and lay leader and delegate to the annual Iowa United Methodist Church Conference. Louise had a lifetime interest in young people. Long after her sons had graduated, she remained active in the American Field Service Program at HCHS and was a host mother to Francesco Puerari from Cermona, Italy, during 1964-65. Having become certified as a debate and speech judge, Louise participated in speech contests as a judge for a number of years. She and Fred supported all activities at HCHS and funded the Louise Art Award. In 1966, Louise was honored as a Merit Mother by Church Women United. Louise died at Elm Crest Retirement Community Sept. 24, 2003, at age 91 years, 10 months and two days.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Mildred; her husband, Fred Louis, Jr.; and sons, Fred Louis III (Lona) and John Carpenter Louis (Judith). She is survived by her brother, Wayne Carpenter (Carol) of Iowa City; granddaughters, Amy Louise Lujan (Stan) of Nome, AK; Katharine Jennifer Saunders (Ed) of Cedar Rapids; Lona Beth Hedger (David) of Tampa, FL; and Alison Emily Ellis (Keith); great grandchildren, Tia Katharine Saunders, Trae Louis Saunders, Anna Jane Hedger, Caroline Grace Hedger and Noah John Ellis; and nephew, David Carpenter; and niece, Nancy Leahy.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 8, 2003, at 2 p.m. at the Harlan United Methodist Church. Memorial gifts can be made to the Harlan Public Library.