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Harriet Miller, 83

Nov. 23, 1920 - Feb. 25, 2004

HARLAN — Harriet Naomi Miller, the daughter of Clarence S. and Jessie L. Saunders Swartz, was born Nov. 23, 1920, in Gilmore City. Harriet grew up in Perry, and graduated as salutatorian in 1938. After high school, she worked for the Perry Daily Chief as a society editor.

Harriet married Ken Miller Oct. 5, 1942, in Yuma, AZ. Her first years of marriage were spent as an Air Force wife living in different places in the western U.S. After Ken was discharged from the service, they moved and made their home in Dallas Center where their children were born. From 1953-1970, they were editors of publishers of the Armstrong Journal and the Ringsted Dispatch. While in Armstrong, Harriet was active in the church choir, the American Auxiliary, and attended all sports activities as sports editor for the Journal. In 1970, they moved to Mason City where she worked for Dwyer Aircraft until 1980. For one year she worked in the pharmacy at North Iowa Medical Clinic. Harriet was a member of the United Methodist Church, a volunteer at North Iowa Medical Clinic in Mason City, and was very involved in Sweet Adelines. She retired in 1981 and they spent their winters in Florence, AZ. Because of their poor health, Harriet and Ken moved to Harlan in 1997 to be close to their daughter, Barbara. Harriet resided in Elm Crest for almost two years. She died Feb. 25, 2004, at Elm Crest Retirement Community at age 83 years, three months and two days.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ken, who died June 1, 1999; her brothers, Ronald Swartz and Foster Swartz; and a sister, Dorothy Jones. She is survived by her daughter, Barbara (Gary) Wirtjes of Harlan; her son, Barry Miller (Barbara) of Hinsdale, NY; sister-in-law, Betty Jane Lovejoy of Pasadena, CA; brother-in-law, Bernard Miller of Glendale, CA; six grandchildren, Christopher Wirtjes, Melissa (Paul) Scholten, Mia Wirtjes, Nadine Dyskant-Miller, Raymi Dyskant and Erek Dyskant; one great-grandson, Aiden Scholten; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 28, 2004, at the Pauley Jones Funeral Home with Pastors Gundar Lamberts and Jim Warren officiating. Casket bearers were Mia Wirtjes, Erek Dyskant, Nadine Dyskant-Miller, Christopher Wirtjes, Paul Scholten and Melissa Scholten. Burial was in the Violet Hill Cemetery in Perry.

