

Johanna M. Mitten, 91

April 26, 1907 - March 30, 1999

HARLAN - Johanna Marie Mitten, daughter of Jacob Peter and Anne Dorthea (Nelson) Christensen was born April 26, 1907 at Jylland, Denmark. One of five children, at the age of three years, she came with her family as they immigrated from Denmark to the Merrills Grove area. She attended country school and grew to adulthood on her parents' farm.

Nov. 25, 1926, she married Clayton Mitten at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. Two sons and two daughters were born to this union. After their marriage they farmed near Redline. In the early 1940's the family moved north of Harlan where they raised sheep along with their farming operation. After their children had grown and moved away from home they returned to Clayton's home place near Redline. After selling their farm, they moved to Cresthaven for five years before moving to Harlan. For 18 years they traveled by car to Mesa, AZ where they spent their winters. In 1990, because of failing health, they moved back to Harlan. They were privileged to have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church in Harlan and was active in the ladies organization. She attended horse shows with Clayton. She became a resident of the Baptist Memorial Home June 18, 1990 and this is where she died March 30, 1999 at age 91 years, 11 months and four days.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband Clayton, her granddaughter Cynthia Larsen, her sisters Ellen Christensen and Nelsena Car and her brother Jeppie Elmond Christensen. Survivors include her son JaVain Mitten (Norma) of Hamilton, MO; her daughter Joyce (Virgil) Christensen of Harlan; her son Merlyn Mitten (Ada) of Kansas City, MO; her daughter Marlene (Kenneth) Larsen of Calistoga, CA; 12 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and one great great granddaughter; her sister Dora (Gordon) Hess of Ayrshire; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 3, 1999 at Pauley funeral Home with Rev. Roger Crawford of Bethel Baptist Church officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Gene Gaer, Lyle and Wava Petersen, Bob Andersen, Buck and Helen Holloway and Leonard and Madge Fiscus honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Don Cain, Kevin Christensen, Reed Larsen, Tim Christensen, Gene Larsen, Richard Larsen, Jim Wittman and Dave Jackson.

