

Frieda Nielsen, 99

Oct. 31, 1906 - Dec. 4, 2005

HARLAN — Frieda Evalena Nielsen was born to Kjeld and Lona (Knudsen) Smidt on a farm in Turner County in South Dakota Oct. 31, 1906. She was baptized and confirmed at Bethany Lutheran Church in Viborg, SD. Frieda attended rural school near Viborg and attended Dana College in Blair, NE, for 1-1/2 years after which she was employed as a secretary in Omaha, NE, for a year.

July 30, 1930, Frieda married Ralph K. Nielsen at Bethany Lutheran Church in Viborg, SD. After their marriage, they farmed in Jackson Township, Shelby County. They retired from farming in 1964 and moved to Harlan. Ralph and Frieda celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary together. She resided at Salem Home for 6-1/2 years where she did needle work and provided numerous items for the annual craft auction. Frieda was a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church, participating in all areas of church life at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, Iowa, and since 1968 had been a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan. For several years she was an active member in the Women's Quilting Guild. Ralph died Dec. 31, 1992. Frieda died at Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn Dec. 4, 2005, at age 99 years, 1 month, and 4 days.

In addition to her parents, Frieda is preceded in death by her husband, Ralph K. Nielsen; one sister, Emma Smidt; two brothers, Elmer Smidt and Francis Smidt; one son, Stanley Nielsen; and one son-in-law, Fred Louis. Her survivors include two daughters, Jeanne (Connie) Sorensen of Milford and Lona Louis of Northbrook, IL; two sons, Don (Marie) Nielsen of Atlantic and David (Sandy) Nielsen of Wayzata, MN; one daughter-in-law, Cheryl Nielsen of Harlan; 11 grandchildren; 24 great grandchildren; and other relatives.

Memorial services were held Jan. 7, 2006, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan with Pastor Heather Ploen officiating. Inurnment was in the Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery, Jacksonville. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

