

Helen Richards, 81

April 23, 1924 - April 28, 2005

IRWIN — Helen Marie Richards, daughter of John and Florence Weller White, was born April 23, 1924, in Taylor County. She attended school in Villisca and it was there that she graduated. Upon graduation, Helen worked in Omaha at Safeway Grocery, where she met Normal through mutual friends while he was in the service.

April 21, 1946, Helen married Normal G. Richards in Villisca at her parents' home. Two sons were born to this union, Craig and Kent. After their marriage, they built their home in the Irwin area. Helen was employed at Paulsen's Grocery and Steenhusen Furniture and Hardware for many years. She was later employed at the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan until retiring in 1990. Normal died Feb. 11, 2000. Helen became a resident of the Manilla Manor in June of 2002. She was a member of the Church of Christ in Irwin, since 1946. She was an active member in the American Legion Auxillary of Irwin. She died April 28, 2005, at the Manilla Manor at age 81 years, and five days.

In addition to her parents, Helen was preceded in death by her husband, Normal; as well as her daughter-in-law, Cindy; and her grandson, Eric. Survivors include her sons, Craig Richards (Wanda) of Elizabethtown, KY, and Kent Richards (Sandi) of Irwin; four grandsons; Bret Richards (Jill) of Irwin, Aaron Richards (Brandi) of Alpharetta, GA, Ryan Richards (Kim) of Sartel, MN and Nathan Richards, (Belinda) of Carroll; two step-granddaughters, Haley Nichols and Chelsea Baker of Elizabethtown, KY; six great-grandchildren, Conner Richards, Samantha and Nicole Richards, Alyssa and Kalob Richards and Serenity Richards; her brother, Eldon White (Eva) of Maryville, MO; her sisters-in-law, Arlene (Ed) Barnum of Woodbine and Opal (Jack) Gaskill of Irwin, nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 30, 2005, at the Church of Christ in Irwin with Rev. Ted Sieck officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery in Irwin with Bruce White, Lyle Shepard, Donnie Conz, Lynn Gaskill, Duane White and Jerry Luetje casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

