

Colene Rowedder, 75

Feb. 28, 1931 - May 7, 2006

MANNING — Colene Joy, daughter of Alvin and Bernice (Frank) Gray, was born Feb. 28, 1931, near Botna in Shelby County. She attended rural school through the eighth grade and then graduated from Manning High School with the class of 1948. She then earned her two-year elementary teaching degree from Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls. Colene taught for two years in Gildden.

April 24, 1952, Colene married Virgil J. Rowedder in Colorado Springs, CO. They lived there for a year before moving to a farm northwest of Manning. Three children were born to this union. In 1964 Colene returned to elementary school teaching in Manning. Over the ensuing years, she completed college classes from Drake University earning her Bachelor's Degree in the early 1970's from Midwestern College in Denison. The family lived on the farm until 1970 when they moved into their new home in Manning. Colene retired in 1993 after 29 years of teaching in Manning. Her husband died in 1984 and she remained in their home in Manning. She was a member of the United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, was a trustee, and served on various committees. She served on the building committee for the new church completed in 1990. She was also a member of P.E.O., the Manning Quasquicentennial History Book committee and was a Speak Up trainer for RSVP. After surgery, Colene struggled with her health and continued to receive various forms of treatment. She was undergoing routine care at the Manning Regional Healthcare Center when she died suddenly May 7, 2006, at age 75 years, two months, and nine days.

Besides her parents, husband and infant son, Jon Alvin, Colene is preceded in death by her son-in-law, Marvin Ashwill. She is survived by two children, Mark Rowedder (Martha) of Mill Hall, PA and Becky Ashwill of Wagoner, OK; three grandchildren, Kelli Rowedder of Duluth, GA; Holli Rowedder of Mill Hall, PA; and Casey Ashwill of Wagoner, OK; great grandson, Casey Carlyn Ashwill; sisters, Adele (Ray) Christensen of Manning and Connie (Norman) James of Scottsdale, AZ; brothers-in-law, LeRoy Rowedder (Delores) of Manning and Wilmer Ehrichs of Denison; sisters-in-law, Joan (Russell) Mohr of Manning and Ethel Rowedder of California; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 11, 2006, at the United Methodist Church in Manning, with Rev. Lanette Plambeck officiating. Burial was in the Manning Cemetery with Kelli Rowedder and Holli Rowedder honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Paul Christensen, Del Christensen, Jim Mohr, Jeff Mohr, Justin James and Casey Ashwill. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.