

Janice L. Russell, 61

Feb. 19, 1941 - June 14, 2002



HARLAN – Janice Laraine Russell was born to Lorraine (Pickering) and Harley Ficken Feb. 19, 1941, at Spencer. She was baptized and confirmed at the United Methodist Church in Spirit Lake. Jan attended and graduated from Spirit Lake Community High School in 1959. Following high school graduation, she attended Estherville Junior College in Estherville, for one year.

Oct. 30, 1960, she married Gary Russell at the United Methodist Church in Spirit Lake. Two daughters, Julie Lynn in 1961 and Sheryl Rae in 1965, were born to this union. Jan and Gary made their home in Estherville, until 1975, when the Russells moved to Mitchell, SD, in 1981, they relocated to Harlan. Jan spent her early married years as a wife and stay-at-home mother. During this time, she was a Brownie leader, 4-H leader, school room mother and Sunday School and Bible School teacher. Since moving to Harlan, she was employed at local food stores doing demonstrations, Mickel's Catering and, as a cook at the Harlan Golf and Country Club. She was an active member of the United Methodist Church serving on numerous committees, United Methodist Church Women and Church Women United where she also served as a Board member. She assisted with the Red Cross Bloodmobile and Meals on Wheels delivery. She died June 14, 2002, at her home in Harlan, at age 61 years, three months and 26 days.

She was preceded in death by her father, Harley Ficken, and her father-in-law, Wayne Russell, and is survived by her husband, Gary Russell of Harlan; daughters, Julie (Gary) Thraen of Harlan and Sheryl LeRoy (Garman) of Yutan, NE; grandchildren, Jason and Courtney Thraen of Harlan and Zachary Garman of Yutan, NE; mother, Lorraine Ficken of Spirit Lake; sister and brothers, Linda (Robert) Clark of Pocahontas; Duane Ficken (Tammi) of Milford and Gene Ficken (Michelle) of Independence; mother-in-law, Marjorie Russell of Estherville; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 17, 2002, at the United Methodist Church in Harlan, with the Rev. Paul Wilcox officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Bill Lemons, Jerry Skoglund, Leonard Fiscus, Jack Christensen, Gene West and Junior Holloway casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.