

Alva Stidham, 90

Dec. 23, 1916 - Nov. 2, 2007

SHELBY — Alva May (Welton) Stidham was born Dec. 23, 1916, in Bellevue, NE, daughter of George and Sophie (Dreger) Welton, and was one of eight children in the family. She attended grade school and high school in Bellevue, NE.

Alva married Edgar Stidham Nov. 13, 1933, in Council Bluffs. They were the parents of five children. They farmed in the Carson and Treynor areas until 1959, when they moved to Shelby, where Edgar was employed by the Highway Commission. Edgar died May 6, 1994. Alva was a member of the Shelby Presbyterian Church, active in the ladies circle of the church, Garden Club, Red Hat Society, Senior Citizens Friendship Club, American Legion Auxillary, Rebekas and the Shelby Farmerettes. She moved to Georgia in July 2007 to be near her daughter, LaNaya. She died at the Peachtree Christian Hospice in Duluth, GA Nov. 2, 2007, at age 90 years, 10 months and 10 days.

Alva was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Edgar; an infant son, Arthur; a daughter, Marlene Kiesel; one sister, Ilene Taylor; five brothers, Frank, Warren, Wayne, Virgil and John; and an infant grandson. She is survived by her son, George Stidham (Sally) of Mountain Home, AR; two daughters, Wanda Saxton (Grover) of Yazoo City, MS; and LaNaya Kresl (Jim) of Cumming, GA; 13 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; one sister, Martha Briggs of Omaha, NE; a son-in-law, Dennis Kiesel of Hollister, MO; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Nov. 8, 2007, at the First Presbyterian Church in Shelby, with Pastor Orris Drake officiating. Casket bearers were her grandsons, Todd and Jamie Kresl, Jay and Jon Stidham and Craig and Jeff Kiesel. Burial was at the Shelby Cemetery. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca, in charge of arrangements.