

## Bernadine K. White, 95

January 16, 1911 to March 9, 2006

**HARLAN** - Bernadine Kathryn White was born the oldest of three children in her parents' home in Harlan, IA on January 16, 1911, to Anna (Christiansen) and Morris Frederickson, both pioneer Danish Shelby County residents. Her father's parents, Lars and Anna Frederickson, arrived in America in 1878 and bought land in Shelby County in 1892.

She died at Elm Crest Retirement Center, Harlan, on March 9, 2006, having attained the age of 95. Services were March 11 at the First Baptist Church, Harlan with burial in the Harlan Cemetery.

She was a member of the first-ever first-grade class at Laurel Elementary School, now the site of the Laurel Street Housing Development. Upon graduation from Harlan High School in 1928, she attended Iowa State University for one year before returning to Harlan and teaching country school.

She married Cyrus Melvin White on Dec. 10, 1931 at Bethel Baptist Church in Harlan and they made their home southwest of Harlan, where they farmed with Mel's father Charles. After three years, they moved to Harlan. To this union, two children were born, but both son (1936) and daughter (1943) died at birth.

During WWII, she worked at the Harlan Tribune while her husband Mel served as the personal driver for nationally known war correspondents on the European war front. He later was able to bring that Jeep home, the only one to have seen combat duty to make it back to the States, all through efforts of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In 1946 Bernadine and Mel purchased the Sinclair Service Station at 5th and Market, adding Oldsmobile and Cadillac autos to the new White Motors full service dealership. She was actively involved as the bookkeeper until they sold the business in 1967 to Art Doran. Mel died Feb. 8, 1976. Bernadine purchased Mode O'Day clothing in 1970, and operated it on the square in downtown Harlan until retiring in 1979. During her tenure, she won numerous sales and achievement awards from the company.

After the death of her mother in 1949, they moved to the family home at 1605 6th St. and helped care for her father until he remarried. Bernadine and Mel bought the home in 1955, and she lived there until October 2001, when she moved to the assisted living apartments at Elm Crest. In October 2002, she moved to Elm Crest's nursing care area.

She was a member of First Baptist Church, Harlan; Harlan Chamber of Commerce, where she served as an officer in 1977-78; Shelby County Historical Society; and a charter member of Myrtue Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. As committee chairman, she was instrumental in founding the gift shop at the hospital in 1981, and served many years on that committee.

Her husband, parents, children, stepmother, brother Gaillard, sister Irene and brother-in-law Leo Mores preceded her in death. She is survived by nephews: Steve (Michelle) Mores, Harlan; Dr. Robert (Lyn) Frederickson, Birmingham, AL; Alan (Donna) Mores, Harlan; nieces: Barbara (Martin) Johnson, Glen Ellyn, IL; Suzie (Herb) Laney, Hinsdale, IL; and cousins Doris Anne (Mark) Anderson, West Des Moines, IA; Frederick (Betty) Day, St. Augustine, FL; Martha Ann (Harold) Robirds, Powell, WY and Edward Christensen, Rogers, AK. Survivors also include: sister-in-law Sally (Mrs. Gaillard) Frederickson, Birmingham, AL; great-nephews Marc (Jennifer) Mores, Fairfield, OH; Michael (Cathy) Mores, Ames, IA; Brad (Sara) Johnson, Oakland, CA; Matt Johnson, Glen Ellyn, IL; Phil Johnson, Boston, MA; Scott Laney, Hinsdale, IL and Jackson Mores, Harlan; great-nieces Jordan Laney, Iowa City, IA; and Chandler Mores, Harlan; great-great nieces Ashley and Stephanie Mores, Fairfield, OH; many other cousins and friends.

Bernadine's father, Morris Frederickson, was a well-known builder having constructed numerous homes and buildings including the former Harlan Public Library, Swimming Pool and City Hall, the Bethel Baptist Church, the First Baptist Church, the Altamont Baptist Church, Shelby Presbyterian Church; the nun's home in Panama as well as over 50 homes - including the Harlan home of former Iowa Governor Kraschel. Her father was instrumental in convincing Chris Myrtue to donate his farmland to help start the fund drive for Myrtue Memorial Hospital, Frederickson later served on the first board of trustees for the hospital and the first board of trustees for the Harlan Municipal Utilities.

