

Stena Olsen, 99

Maria Christena Olsen, daughter of Lars and Marie (Thompsen) Willadsen, was born Sept. 15, 1881 in Denmark. She came to America with her family to settle in Merrill's Grove in the spring of 1882. Stena was converted and joined the United Brethern Church at age 14.

On Feb. 27, 1901, she married Lawrence Olsen in Harlan. Seven children were born to this union. After their marriage, they made their home in Merrill's Grove until 1943, when they retired and moved into Harlan. In 1967, they sold their home and became residents of the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan. After Mr. Olsen's death on June 24, 1969, Mrs Olsen continued to live at the Baptist Home until 1978, when she moved to Red Oak. For 47 years, Stena was a member of the Merrill's Grove Baptist church until 1945, when she moved her membership to the Bethel Baptist church in Harlan. She died at the Red Oak hospital, on Nov. 24, 1980, at age 99 years, two months and nine days.

In addition to her husband and parents, Mrs Olsen was preceded in death by one daughter, Ruby Wittrup; two sisters and one brother. She is survived by one son, Marion Olsen of Audubon; five daughters, Gladys (Mrs Aage) Andersen of Red Oak; Goldie (Mrs Glen) Deyo of Omaha, Neb.; Pearl (Mrs Gunnar) Ehn of Lockport, Ill.; Vera Mae (Mrs George) Thompsen of Omaha and June (Mrs Paul) Andersen of Des Moines; 20 grandchildren and 50 great grandchildren; and one sister, Edna Nelson of Harlan; relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at Pauley Funeral Home, Harlan, Nov. 26, 1980 with Rev. Arthur Neuenschwander of Bethel Baptist church and Mark W. Jervis of Merrill's Grove Baptist church, officiating. Burial was in Harlan Cemetery, Harlan, with Gene Andersen, Robert Andersen, Richard Wittrup and Stanley Thompsen serving as honorary casketbearers. Pallbearers were Gary Olsen, Vincent Deyo, Arnold Andersen, Donald Andersen, Richard Hemmingsen and George Thompsen, Jr.

