

Ethington, Hilda R. d. 1-19-2004
(Weuve)

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Hilda Ruby Ethington

Oct. 21, 1900, to Jan. 19, 2004

Hilda Ruby Weuve Ethington, 103, died Jan. 19 in Columbia, Mo.

She was born to Albert Henry Weuve and Mary Josephine Riemenschneider Weuve on the family farm in western Marshall County on Oct. 21, 1900. She entered State Center High School when she was 15 and was the only member of her immediate family to complete a high school education. Following high school, she enrolled at Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls and then taught in rural schools in Marshall and Story counties for four-and-a-half years. She married Lindsay Ethington on July 16, 1926. They lived in State Center while he worked for local farmers and she was a clerk at Benson's dry goods store. They moved to the farm where she spent most of the rest of her life in 1931. She was a member of the Colo Methodist Church, Isabelle Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, Good Earth Garden Club and the Colo Thimble Club. In her later years, she became a reporter for

the Nevada Evening Journal, covering news from Colo. Early in 2001, restricted to a wheelchair, she became the oldest participant in a study of the benefits of physical activity for elderly persons, conducted by the University of Missouri-Columbia. The increased mobility she developed allowed her considerable freedom during subsequent years.

Survivors include two sons, Raymond (and Leslie) of Columbia, Mo., and Robert (and Ellen) of Corvallis, Ore.; four granddaughters; nine great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, seven siblings and her husband.

Funeral services will be held at the Colo United Methodist Church at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23; burial will be in the Colo Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials in her name be made to Community Hospices of America Foundation, Inc., 1465 Primrose, Suite A, Springfield, Mo. 65804. Friends may call at the Wensel-Perrin Funeral Home in State Center from 6-8 p.m. Thursday evening, Jan. 22.

Ethington turns 101

Hilda Ethington, long-time central Iowa resident, celebrated her 101st birthday on Sunday, Oct. 21, in Columbia, MO. She was a guest of honor for lunch at a Chinese restaurant. Those attending were her sons, Raymond L. Ethington of Columbia, Robert of Corwallis, Oregon. Other family members attending included daughter-in-law, Leslie, granddaughters Elaine Bluml of Lee's Summit, MO, Mary's husband John Pratt and sons John, Jacob, and Joseph of Columbia. She has received flowers, cards and greetings from many long time friends and relatives as well as from new acquaintances in Columbia where she now resides.

Hilda amazes everyone with her good health and interest in current events. She is an avid reader and recently began participating in an



Hilda Ethington

experimental exercise program for senior citizens sponsored by the University of Missouri.



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OBITUARIES

Hilda Weuve Ethington, 103

Hilda Ruby Weuve Ethington, died at the age of 103 years on Jan. 19, 2004 in Columbia, MO.

Hilda was born to Albert Henry Weuve and Mary Josephine Riemenschneider Weuve on the family farm in western Marshall County on October 21, 1900. Her parents, seven siblings and her husband Lindsay Ethington preceded her in death.

As a small child Hilda attended rural schools walking two miles there and back each day. Later she drove to school in a horse drawn wagon. She entered State Center High School, when she was 15 years old and was the only member of her immediate family to complete a high school education. Hilda was a serious student with many interests that she pursued by reading until her eyes failed a year prior to her death. She took great pride in her penmanship and was dismayed when the frailties of age did not allow her to maintain her high standards for her writing.

Following high school, Hilda enrolled at Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls and then taught in rural schools in Marshall and Story Counties for four and a half years.

Hilda and Lindsay Ethington were married on July 16, 1926. They lived in State Center while Lindsay worked for local farmers and Hilda was a clerk at Benson's dry goods store. They moved to the farm where she spent most of her life in 1931. Raymond was born on August 28, 1929, and Robert joined them on February 13, 1932.

Hilda worked hard caring for children, managing her home, and working on their farm. She raised chickens, maintained a large

vegetable garden, milked cows, fed farm helpers at haying and other times, and assisting Lindsay in harvesting the annual corn crop before the advent of mechanical harvesters. She and Lindsay never traveled far from home although they made short visits to their children who lived in other states. **Most of her life was spent within a few miles of the farm on which she was born over a century ago, and that was where she wanted to be.**

She was a member of the Colo Methodists Church, of Isabelle Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, of the Good Earth Garden Club and of the Colo Thimble Club. In her later years Hilda became a reporter for the Nevada Evening Journal, covering news from Colo. Although slowing physically, she continued the half-mile daily trek to get her mail at her box on the nearby country road. She was still planting flowers and vegetables at 95 and keeping a well-mowed lawn on her riding mower.

When Lindsay's health failed, Hilda entered into an arrangement with the Becvar brothers who operated her farm for about 35 years. She cared for Lindsay in their home until his death on January 31, 1980. With the generous support of her numerous friends and neighbors, she was able to live there alone for another 20 years. Nearly six months before her 100th birthday she moved to Columbus, MO.

Early in 2001 Hilda, by then restricted to a wheel chair, became the oldest participant in a study of the benefits of physical activity for elderly persons conducted by the University of Missouri-Columbia. The increased mobility that she developed allowed her considerable freedom during subsequent years. Upon completion of the program she made many new friends at exercise classes that she attended regularly for nearly two years.

Two sons and daughters-in-law, Raymond and Leslie in Columbia, Missouri, and Robert and Ellen of Corvallis, Oregon, survive Hilda. She has four granddaughters, nine great-grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be held at the Colo United Methodist Church at 1:00 p.m. Friday, January 23; burial will be in the Colo Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorials in her name be made to Community Hospices of America Foundation, Inc., 1465 Primrose, Suite A, Springfield, Missouri 65804. Friends may call at the Wensel-Perrin Funeral Home in State Center from 6-8:00 p.m. on Thursday evening. The Wensel-Perrin Funeral Home (641-483-2340) has been entrusted with her final arrangements.