

Obituary

Alice Gail Sawyer, daughter of Ernest G. and Alice Gail (Hall) Pitner, a long-time Shenandoah resident, died Saturday at Garden View Care Center after an extended illness. She was 79.

Alice Gail was born in Shenandoah on April 11, 1925. After moving to Missouri with her family for a brief time, the family returned to Shenandoah where she entered the sixth grade. It was in the sixth grade that she met Tom Sawyer, the man she would eventually marry and spend nearly sixty-one years with. She graduated from Shenandoah High School in 1942.

After graduating Alice Gail worked as a dental assistant for Dr. C.W. Peterson. On April 1, 1944 she married Air Force Sgt. Tom Sawyer at the First United Methodist Church in Shenandoah. To this union were born two sons, Steve and Sam.

When the boys were both in school she returned to work. She became a secretary for the Page County Relief Office until becoming co-owner and bookkeeper for Sears Catalogue Sales Store in Shenandoah. When she and Tom sold the store she worked for Dr. M. Moody. She then worked in several Shenandoah dress shops until she retired in 1999.

Alice Gail was quite active in church activities, the retail community and the Chamber of Commerce. For the couple's many years of service to their community the city of Shenandoah honored Alice Gail and Tom on their 60th wedding anniversary by designating April 1, 2004 as Tom and Alice Gail Sawyer Day in Shenandoah. They received an honorary plaque from Shenandoah Mayor Greg Connell.

She was the first woman elected to the Board of Directors of the Shenandoah Chamber of Commerce. She was a former member of the Order of Eastern Star, the Mentor Study Club, Altrusa, and Shenandoah Woman's Service Club. She served a term as president of each. She was a Cub Scouts Den Mother, and was very active in the Methodist Church. Alice Gail served twice on the worship committee, once as chairman, twice on the Staff-Parish committee, and the administrative board as well as serving as circle chair of UMW.

Alice Gail enjoyed dancing, crocheting, knitting, reading her Bible, and fellowshiping with her many friends. She particularly enjoyed her bridge clubs.

She is preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Doris Johnson; brothers Hall, Darrell, Ralph and Monty Pitner; and sister-in-law Delouise Pitner.

She is survived by her husband, Tom; brother-in-law John Sawyer of Tucson, AZ; sons Steve Sawyer and Marie of Lawrenceville, GA.; Sam Sawyer of Tucson, AZ; grandson Quentin and Betty, and granddaughter Leah Marie both of Montgomery, AL; five step-grandchildren; very special nieces and nephews and spouses Sheila and Bill Shirk of Independence, MO; Sharon and Ronnie Brown of Tarkio, MO; Sheleen and Butch Gaylor of Rockport, MO; Pam Agee of El Tora, CA; Pat and Ed Progreba of Omaha, NE; nephews Greg and Donna Pitner of Bloomington, IN; Gale and Karla Pitner of Lafayette, IN; Lynn and Terri Johnson of Clarinda, IA; and many more extended family and friends.

Funeral service from
United Methodist Church
Shenandoah, Iowa
Wednesday, March 16, 2005
Two O'clock p.m.

Words of Comfort
Rev. James Gubser

Memory Register
Betty Leacox Shirley Moore

Caring for Flowers
Mary Alice Johnson Naomi Worl

Pianist
Margaret Woods

Honorary Pall Bearers
Paul Hillman
Harold Hansen
Willard Skinner
Merrill Skinner

Pall Bearers
Larry Randolph
Dave Moore
Chuck Irvin
Bill Hillman
Bob Norris
Greg Pitner
Gale Pitner

Ushers
Jim Sligar LeRoy Hensley

Interment
Rose Hill Cemetery
Shenandoah, Iowa

There will be a time of fellowship and refreshments following the service at the cemetery in the Fellowship Hall at the United Methodist Church.