

## Obituary

Lois December Rhoads Wilson, daughter of Isaac Edward and Nellie Elvira Jeffries Rhoads, was born December 12, 1914, in Pattonsburg, Missouri, and died May 20, 2001, at the Shenandoah Memorial Hospital after a brief illness. Lois' family, in which she was the eighth child, moved from Pattonsburg to Shenandoah when she was about two years old. Shenandoah was her home for more than 84 years, and she loved it with all her heart. She was a 1932 SHS graduate at the age of seventeen with a Normal School Certificate, but she married before she actually had a chance to teach. During her high school years, she was a maid for the family of Water Commissioner Debs Nye where she often reported she learned to appreciate fine food and once overindulged in wine by sampling the leftover wine as she did the dishes. On October 10, 1934, she secretly married Albert Glen Wilson, formerly of Neola, Iowa, in Plattsmouth, Nebraska, but Mrs. Maud Nye figured it out as soon as she saw how much Lois was smiling. To this union were born three children, Donald, Jack and Patsy. Lois clerked in the boys/men department at J. C. Penney's store in Shenandoah for thirty-nine years and was known by many as "Mrs. Penney's." Lois was a faithful member of St. John's Episcopal Church, American Legion Auxiliary, VFW Auxiliary, Senior Citizens, Shenandoah Hospital Auxiliary and the Shenandoah Historical Society. She was also in Eastern Star until it moved to Clarinda and she was unable to participate regularly. For over twenty years Albert and she chaired the Bloodmobile Canteen, and Lois also worked many hours at the Food Bank. She was a well-known volunteer at Garden View Care Center and was on the Care Review Board until health limited her activities. In December 1975 Lois began the battle with cancer, first in the colon, and then in the bladder. There was nothing in this life that Lois did not enjoy. She enjoyed some things just because people she loved enjoyed them. She rarely missed any activity her children or grandchildren were involved in. She was often found reading, quilting and sewing, volunteering, watching Lawrence Welk or the silly British comedies, working in her yard, or walking her beloved dog MacKensie. In the last few years, Lois' favorite thing to do was to reminisce about the good old days when husband Al was alive and well.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents, Isaac and Nellie Rhoads; four brothers, Ellory, Bill, Roscoe, and Orval; four sisters, Letitia, Pearl, Hazel, and Marian; one grandchild, Marjorie Kay Martin; and her husband of sixty-three years, Albert. She is survived by her three children and their spouses: Don and wife Carmie of Annandale, Virginia; Jack and wife Judy of Shenandoah; Patsy and husband Ed of rural Shenandoah; nine grandchildren, Joel, Wendi, Brett, Kerry, Lisa, Kevin, Tim, Holly, and Chuck; eight great-grandchildren and many friends. Lois loved her children, grandchildren and her friends. She was known for her smile and laughter, and admired for her positive attitude. Typical of Lois was her answer to the question, when she was asked why she was in the hospital: "Oh, I'm fine. I just had a little cancer removed."

*Following the service at the cemetery, everyone is cordially invited back to St. John's Episcopal Church for a time of refreshments and fellowship with the family.*