



Irene L. Protz

January 26, 1918 - September 1, 2005

Irene L. Protz, of Highland, formerly of Marine, died September 1, 2005 at St. Joseph Hospital.

Mrs. Protz was born January 26, 1918 in Alhambra, IL to Henry A. and Pauline (Siewert) Conrad. On December 8, 1936 at the E & R Church in Marine, IL she married Earl Protz. He died March 12, 1981.

She was born southwest of Alhambra; grew up on the farm and attended the old Seibert Country School. She started working at the US Post Office in Marine, transferred to Glen Carbon and retired with over 22 years of service from the Collinsville Post Office in 1981. She and her husband raised and raced thoroughbreds for over 20 years, racing at Fairmont Park, Cahokia Downs, Balmorl Park (Chicago) and Hot Springs. She was a Cardinals baseball fan who attended the All-Star Game in St. Louis and the World Series. She enjoyed quilting, raising flowers in her flower beds, going on bus trips with family and friends through the Mid-west and to Florida. She was a member of the United Church of Christ of Marine, Marine, IL, Women's Guild, Quilters of the Church, Marine Women's Republican Club, Unity Chapter 403, Order of Eastern Star and Past Matrons Club of Unity Chapter.

She is survived by two sons, Ronald E. (Jean Ann) Protz of Marine, Gary L. (Diane) Protz of Lincoln, NE, four grandchildren, Eric L. (Christy) Protz of Marine, Ronda J. (James) Protz Bigger of Highland, Capt. Christopher T. (Sandy) Protz, USAF of Little Rock, AR and Timothy D. Protz of Alton, one brother, Udell E. (Dorothy) Conrad of Alhambra and one sister, Velma J. (Harold) Grotefendt of Marine.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Billy Gene Protz (died at age 2 in 1952), one brother, Delbert H. Conrad, one sister, Mildred E. Grotefendt, one sister-in-law, Dorris E. Conrad and one brother-in-law, August A. Grotefendt.