

## **Esch, Margaret**

Margaret "Maggie" (Wideman) Esch, 95, of Glendale, Ariz. died on Aug. 22, 2001, in Glendale. She was born on July 26, 1906, the fifth child of three sons and three daughters, to Menno and Lydia (Gascho) Wideman on a farm near Pigeon. She was married to Lewis C. Esch on Christmas Day, 1924. After 75 years of marriage, Lewis preceded her in death on April 2, 2000. Maggie and Lewis lived on a farm near Pigeon for 19 years and then built a house near Caseville where they lived for 21 years. Maggie was a member of the Michigan Avenue Mennonite Church in Pigeon, where she was active as a Sunday school teacher, summer bible school secretary, and helped with numerous church projects. She worked as a telephone operator for Pigeon Telephone Company in Pigeon for many years. She especially enjoyed being a homemaker and mother to her four children. She was skilled at baking, quilting and various other handicrafts, which were her hobbies. After their children were grown, Maggie and Lewis began to spend winters in Arizona. In 1974, they made their permanent home at the Glencroft Retirement Community in Glendale, Ariz. They were members of the Sunnyslope Mennonite Church and associate members of the Glencroft Community Church. Being a person who loved to give of her time and talents, Maggie was involved in several volunteer jobs at Glencroft. She also found pleasure in playing the piano and organ and shared this musical talent in church services. Surviving are her children, Clayton Esch and his wife, Freda, of Pigeon, Eldora (Dody) Eicher and her husband, Lloyd, of Littleton, Colo., Dwight Esch and his wife, Ofelia, of Valley Center, Calif., and Marilyn Ludwig and her husband, Jack, of Peoria, Ariz.; six grandsons; one granddaughter; eleven great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death are three brothers and two sisters. A private graveside service was conducted at 9 a.m. on Aug. 28, 2001, at Resthaven Park Cemetery in Glendale, Ariz. A memorial service followed at the Glencroft Community Church, officiated by Pastor David Mann. Those wishing to send memorial contributions for Margaret Esch are asked to consider The Zion Fund, Glencroft Administration, 8611 North 67th Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85302. Arrangements were made by Chapel of the Chimes in Glendale.