

Black, Florence

Florence Rochefort McDowell Black, 83, a longtime Bad Axe resident, died peacefully on Sunday, January 8, 2006, at the home of her son, Lee McDowell, in Surprise, Arizona, after an extended illness. She was born in Bad Axe on March 5, 1922, daughter of the late Avery and Irma (Babcock) Rochefort. She married G. Esson McDowell, her childhood sweetheart on June 21, 1941 at the Colfax United Methodist Church. He preceded her in death on September 16, 1971. During the following years, she wintered with her parents in Port Charlotte, Florida, and it was there that she met and later married Donald E. Black, originally from Chicago, Illinois. He passed away on January 30, 1997. Florence was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Bad Axe. She attended McDowell Country School and graduated from Bad Axe High School. In addition to farming, she was employed by the H.J. Smith Store, and for many years by Corbishley's Men's Wear. In Huron County, she as a member of The Handi Helpers, a group which supported the Huron County Retarded Children's Association. In Florida, Florence and Don were a driving force in fundraising for the V.F.W. Post No. 5690, in Port Charlotte, serving as lifetime member of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary Transplant No. 56. Additionally, she organized and maintained an outreach program to local Port Charlotte nursing homes and was involved in many hurricane disaster relief programs. She enjoyed cooking for fundraising events, collecting teddy bears, and being with family. She is survived by her children, Lee Esson McDowell, retired Michigan State Police Post Commander in Bad Axe, and his wife, Deborah, now residing in Surprise, Arizona, and Janis Ann McDowell, of Ann Arbor; two grandchildren, Heather McDowell McKean and Kyle Esson McDowell; and one great-grandchild, Kelsey Jo McKean, all of Surprise, Arizona; brothers, Don Rochefort, of Port Charlotte, Florida, Lyle Rochefort and his wife, Eva, Jack Rochefort and his wife, Jean, all of Bad Axe; sister, Carol (Rochefort) Klawinski and her husband, Don, of Bay City; and cousin, Jean Steinhaus, of Port Huron. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2006, at the Kaufman Funeral Home in Bad Axe. The Rev. William Wright, pastor of First United Methodist Church, will officiate. Interment will be at the Colfax Cemetery Mausoleum. Visitation will be from 1 to 8 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m. until the time of service on Saturday at the funeral home. Memorials may be offered to Heartland Health Hospice of Bad Axe, First United Methodist Church of Bad Axe, and Sun Health Hospice of Arizona.