

Haley, Bernice

Bernice C. Haley, 84, long time resident of Bad Axe, died Monday, Sept. 23, 2002, of natural causes at her home in Berkeley, Calif. Bernice was born in Tustin on March 22, 1918. She earned her bachelor of science degree at Michigan State University before moving to Bad Axe in 1938 to teach home economics at Bad Axe High School. After moving to Bad Axe, she met G. Kirk Haley who she married on Christmas Eve, 1942, in Hot Springs, Ark., near where Kirk was stationed for basic training in the Army. While Kirk was overseas during World War II, Bernice attended law school at the University of Illinois. She was elected to the Order of the Coif Honor Society and graduated with highest honors in 1945. She was admitted to the Michigan Bar, and practiced law in partnership with her husband Kirk under the name "Haley & Haley" from 1945 until her retirement in 1986. She was the first woman to practice law in Huron County, and among the first in the state of Michigan. Bernice was active in a number of charitable causes in the community and as a homemaker for her family. In 1992, after the death of her husband, she moved to California to be close to her sons and grandsons. She is survived by one brother, Donald Cooper, of Jensen Beach, Fla.; one sister, Gert Perotti of Brighton; her son, George, and his wife, Theresa Thomas, of Berkeley; daughter-in-law, Sharon Haley, of Yosemite, Calif.; and two grandsons, Kirk Haley of Davis, Calif., and Brent Haley of Columbus, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her husband and her son, James, and by one brother and one sister. A memorial service will take place at 3 p.m. on Nov. 9, 2002, at the MacAlpine Funeral Home in Bad Axe. Memorials may be made to the Bad Axe Public Library, 200 S. Hanselman Street.