

Johnson, Lois M.

Lois M. Johnson, 91, of Deckerville, died Friday, March 23, 2007, in Autumnwood of Deckerville. She was born June 11, 1915 in Newberry Township, Ohio to Noel Lee and Minerva Mae (Lambert) Johnston. She married Frederick Headly Johnson on August 1, 1947 in Covington, Ohio. He died June 1994. Lois graduated both from Marion College in Indiana (two-year teaching degree) and from Cascade College in Portland, Oregon (AB degree). Upon graduation from Marion College, Lois received first prize for an essay she wrote. Lois also wrote the music to her high school senior class song and sang in a quartet at the commencement exercises. Before going to Cascade College, she was employed as a school teacher in Covington Elementary Schools for seven years and for two and a half years, she worked at the Dakota Avenue Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church in Detroit. She also served on the faculty at Cascade College. Lois drove across the country from Ohio to Oregon by herself in a Model T Ford. It was at Cascade College that she met and married Frederick H. Johnson. She only needed to remove a "t" from her last name. To this union were born three daughters, Ruth Ann, Esther Mae, and Jane Marie. Together, Fred and Lois served the following churches, Vanport Community Church (Vanport City, Oregon), Soap Lake Community Church (Soap Lake, Washington), Wapato United Missionary Church (Wapato, Washington), Pleasant Hill UMC (Bronson), Indiana Chapel UMC (Bremen, Indiana), Mizpah, Riverside and New Greenleaf Circuit UMC (Cass City), Cass City UMC (Cass City), and East Wenatchee Friends Church (East Wenatchee, Washington). While serving many of these churches, Lois also taught at local public schools. Of the many events in their lives, the Vanport flood stands out the most. It occurred on Sunday, May 30, 1948. Lois wrote a small booklet detailing how God miraculously saved them from the flood waters by starting their car with a screwdriver. It was from this event that their life verse and song became Isaiah 43:2 and God Leads His Dear Children Along. Lois taught at Evergreen Country School. She was very active in the Cass City Missionary Church serving as choir director, church organist and in the children's ministry. Lois truly enjoyed music. Lois is survived by her daughters, Ruth Ann (David M.) Waid, of Cassopolis, Jane Marie (Mitchell) Anderson, of Portland Oregon; grandchildren, Christy Rand, of Portland Oregon, Andrew Waid, of Osceola, Indiana, James (Shannon) Waid, of New Boston, Timothy Waid, of New Boston, Jeremy Rand, of Portland Oregon; great grandchildren, Nikolas, Aaron, Kylie and Elleanna. She was preceded in death by her infant daughter, Esther Mae Johnson; four sisters; a brother; a brother-in-law; and her parents. A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 26, 2007, in the Kranz Funeral Home in Cass City. Interment will be in the Elkland Township Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Cass City Missionary Church. Family and friends may share memories, prayers and stories with the family at www.kranzfuneralhome.com.