

**Lavalley, Laura L.**

Laura Lucile Voelker Lavalley, 90, of Pigeon, passed away Friday, September 1, 2006, at Courtney Manor in Bad Axe. She was born in Winsor Township on May 8, 1916, daughter of the late Oscar and Martha (Gettel) Voelker. After receiving her R.N. degree from the University of Michigan, Laura moved to Detroit where she began her career as a public health nurse for the city of Detroit. She attained her masters degree in public health from the University of Michigan in June 1959. On December 3, 1960 she was united in marriage to Laurence Lavalley at the Salem Church in Pigeon. In 1967, the couple moved to Seattle where his job had taken him to work for Boeing. While in Seattle, she worked in public health and later worked as a registered nurse at a Swedish hospital until her retirement. Her husband preceded her in death on November 4, 1986 and Mrs. Lavalley returned to Pigeon in the mid-1990s. She was an artist and painted many pictures. She was a member of the University of Michigan Alumni Association and the Salem United Methodist Church in Pigeon. Her survivors include a sister, Vera (James) Lum, of Prescott Valley, Arizona; two brothers, Otto (Anita) Voelker and Donald Voelker, both of Pigeon; many nieces and nephews and their spouses; and many friends. She was preceded in death by two sisters and their husbands, Lila and Percy Rader and Velma and Henry Valasik; and a sister-in-law, Viola Voelker. The funeral service was conducted on Monday, September 4, 2006, at the Meyersieck-Bussema Funeral Home, Pigeon. The Rev. Michael T. Sawicki, pastor of Salem United Methodist Church, officiated. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery. Memorials for Mrs. Lavalley may be made to Salem United Methodist Church or the charity of the donor's choice.