

Clio Sopher



Clio Sopher, 93, of Grinnell died Thursday, April 26, 2007, at her home.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 5, at 10 a.m. in First Presbyterian Church with the

Rev. Kirsten Klepfer, pastor of the church, officiating. Organist will be Lynn Howerzyl and vocalist will be Ed Phillips. Burial will take place in Hazelwood Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Clio Sopher Memorial Fund to be distributed to various projects she supported.

She was born Nov. 16, 1913, in Kansas City, Mo., to Gladys and Felix Hunter. She lived her early years in Kansas City, Kan., and Oklahoma City, after which her family, including her sister Phyllis and a brother Maurice, moved to Des Moines. She graduated from Lincoln High School, then attended Drake University's business school for a year after which she worked at Meredith Publishing Company for four years until she met Bill Sopher. They were married in December, 1936, in Lancaster, Mo. Their first child was born in Des Moines, the remaining five in Fort Madison where they lived for over 60 years. She was a homemaker with particular interest in creative sewing, which ultimately led to an interest in making flags.

She was a life member of the Lee County Historical Society and a member of an original group which developed a museum in the former Sante Fe Depot; a member of the "weed committee" which made crafts for an an-

nual flea-market fundraiser; a member of the Rebecca Pollard Study Club from the 1940s to 1997; a member of P.E.O.; a Campfire board member for 17 years and leader for all three daughters; a Boy Scout den mother for all three sons; PTA for all six children; a 1979-to-1995 board member of Lee County Home Health Agency; a 1985-to-1997 member of the Nurse Advisory Committee for Lee County Public Health Nurses as a consumer advocate; a 1980-to-1997 Hospice volunteer with her husband Bill; a 1988-to-1992 RSVP board member, president and volunteer until 1997; a 1939-to-1997 member of Union Presbyterian Church and its board of deacons for 40 years and women's church circles since 1940.

After moving to Grinnell in 1997, she became a member of the Session of First Presbyterian Church for three years and a Caring Adults volunteer.

The family took many camping vacations to state and national parks, including genealogy research spots on their way to visit far-flung children. She continued to travel with her children and grandchildren following the death of her husband in 2003 including a trip to Scotland.

She is survived by her brother Maury Hunter of Des Moines; and six children, her son Rene Sopher of Novi, Mich., her daughters, Janis Peak and Kim Wemer of Grinnell and Vicki Sopher of Chicago; and sons, Bruce Sopher of Columbia, S. C., and Barry Sopher of Metuchen, N. J.; eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her sister Phyllis Ellsworth and two sons-in-law,

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Memorial contributions may be directed to the Clio Sopher Memorial Fund to benefit several charities of the family's choice.