



Lillie Bell Covington

December 23, 1918 - February 8, 2014

Lillie Bell Covington, Age 95 of Cross Plains, passed away at home, Saturday, February 8th, 2014.

She was born to the late Robert "Bobby" R. and Ola M. Starks, December 23, 1918 in White House, TN. She married the late Donavan Marcellious Covington in 1938, and they lived together in Houston, TX before retiring back to Cross Plains in 1982.

Lillie Bell was preceded in death by one son, Donald M. Covington of Charlotte, TN; and four grandchildren. She is survived by ten children: Jerry Covington of Pensacola, FL, Carole Covington of Houston, TX, Gail Walters of Franklin, KY, Dennis Covington of Cross Plains, TN, Gary Covington of Cottontown, TN, Reid Covington of Carlos, TX, Myra Rose Covington of Cross Plains, TN, Bryant Covington of Farmington, NM, Steven Covington of Chonburi, Thailand and Fairy Covington of Houston, TX. She is also survived by 18 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great grandchildren. Visitation will be held Thursday, February 13th at Austin & Bell Funeral Home in White House from 1:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Friday from 10:00 a.m. until the funeral service at 1:00 p.m. Pastor Chris Campbell of Greenwood Freewill Baptist Church will officiate. Burial will be held at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church cemetery with Pastor Sheryl L.R. Hall officiating. Family and friends serving as pallbearers.

Loving thoughts shared by Mrs. Covington's son, Steven:

It was asked if she ever worked outside the home or had a job. The answer

would be yes to both questions, there are two questions here. She worked one day outside the home after marriage. The money she made from that one day purchased a present for herself and she kept it for many years. She had two “jobs” (wife & mother) in a Mom and Pop “Family Business”. If she regretted her decision to stay at her “jobs” in this “family business” it never was seen by me. She never looked to change jobs because of working conditions, poor pay, site safety, lack of benefits, (vacation days alone, sick days, birthdays or holidays off, etc.), no overtime pay, promotions or was under appreciated for her job role. She multi-tasked, managed and wore many company hats in order to keep the “family business” afloat and solvent. Lean “net income” had to be hard to manage but she made it look easy and even managed to save some money when it looked like there was little to save from. She maintained a neutral position in the “family businesses” internal and subsidiary businesses (kid’s marriages) squabbles even if it was an unpopular position. She never “fired” anyone no matter how many mistakes they made. The subsidiary may dissolve but she had an open door to all parties involved no matter who was at fault. Everyone was treated with respect until they proved they didn’t deserve it and even then it was hard for her to turn them away. So, that was her “job” and the job of every stay-at-home mom, but somewhere over time it has been forgotten.