



## Lilas Mildred Gwilliam

October 16, 1919 - December 14, 2016

Lilas Mildred (Seay) Gwilliam was born October 16, 1919 and peacefully passed in her sleep on December 14, 2016 at the age of 97.

Lilas was the 8th of nine children born to James Anderson Seay and Dessie Odell (Erley) Seay and the last surviving sibling – all but one living long lives into their 90's. Her parents owned their own land on the outskirts of Conway, Arkansas where many farmers of that day did not own land. All the family worked hard – girls and boys – to grow crops and food to feed the family. Lilas spent her working career as a cook and in her retirement years she was actively involved with the Valley Oaks Seniors and the United Methodist Church in Fort Jones, where she enjoyed baking pies for the Church's annual Coffee and Concert event.

Lilas and John Gwilliam were married January 22, 1977 in Las Vegas, Nevada and spent their last years together in Fort Jones. Lilas cared for John during a long illness until he preceded her in death in 1994; she will rest next to him in the Fort Jones Cemetery. Lilas was widowed 3 times; she never divorced and there were no children born to her. All husbands had the first name of John. Known surviving family members include her nieces Patricia Walsh of Conway, AR and Freeda Waldvogel of Cameron, MO with whom she visited about 15 years ago during a trip to her hometown. In July 2013 Lilas moved to Etna into the home of her gracious and generous caregiver where she had

said “God put us together because he knew we needed each other,” and she was right!

No services are planned. Donations can be made to the United Methodist Church, Rescue Ranch or Siskiyou Humane Society.