Letty Lane Gaier

COFFEYVILLE - Letty Lane Gaier, 82, of rural Coffeyville, died at 1:55 a.m. Sunday, May 18, 2003, at St. John's Regional Medical Center at Joplin, Mo. She had been in ill health for several weeks.

She was born Dec. 23, 1920, at Montpelier, Ind., to Emery and Rachel McGeath Lane. She moved to Carter Nine, Okla., with her family as a child. She attended Carter Nine schools. She graduated from the nursing program at the University of Oklahoma. She also received a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Washington University at St. Louis. Several years later, she earned a master's degree in technology and industrial education from Pittsburg State University. She also received an education specialist degree from PSU.

She married Ralph W. Gaier on Feb. 13, 1943, at Brownwood, Texas. He survives of the home.

Mrs. Gaier worked at several hospitals, including Dayton, Ohio; Hartford City, Ind.; and the former Mercy Hospital at Parsons. She was director of Nursing at Labette County Medical Center at Parsons. She also served as director of the licensed practical nurse school at Neosho Community College at Chanute and a nursing instructor at Mt. Carmel School of Nursing in Pittsburg. For two years, she worked in Topeka as the supervisor of health education for the state of Kansas. She was an instructor and director of the Associate Degree Nursing Program at Labette Community College at Parsons and its satellite program at Coffeyville Community College. She retired in 1981.

She was a member of the Gamma Upsilon Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau honor society of nursing at PSU. Beginning in 1941, she was active in the American Red Cross and served as a disaster instructor. She was an honorary lifetime member of the Labette County Chapter of the American Red Cross. In 1994, she received the Cardinal Citation, awarded by Labette Community College. The Parsons Soroptimist Club honored her with its "Women Helping Women" award. She was a life member and past president of the Health Education Division of the American Vocational Association. She served on the Kansas State Board of Nursing and was a past president. She published a nursing skills series program for the 3M Corporation. She was a member of Faith United Methodist Church at Parsons. She also worked as a 4-H leader and a Girl Scout leader. She was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. She was a Charter member of the Neosho Valley Good Sams and a lifetime member of the National Good Sams Camping Organization.

Additional survivors include two sons, Stanley P. Gaier of Fredricksburg, Va., and Stephen M. Gaier of Clermont, Fla.; one daughter, the Rev. Diana R. Hill of Eureka; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one brother, Keith A. Lane.

Services will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Faith United Methodist Church at Parsons with the Rev. Jan Hayen and the Rev. Deborah Hanes Nelson officiating. The committal service will be 2:30 p.m. Thursday at Robbins Cemetery near Coffeyville. The family will receive friends from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Carson-Wall Funeral Home at Parsons. Arrangements are under the direction of Carson-Wall Funeral Home.

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