

DORA NAGEL McClain, 96, of Angola, finished her earthly journey peacefully Sunday, March 29, 2009, at Lakeland Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation, Angola. Born Dora Emma Nagel on June 16, 1912, in Berne, she was the daughter of the recent Swiss immigrants, Mathilda Lehman Nagel and Emil Nagel Sr. She graduated from Berne High School and attended Bluffton College. On July 14, 1937, she married Ralph E. McClain, a Berne native then teaching at the Berne school. They first made their home in Berne for four years, where she gave birth to their son, George, and then for three years in Ridgeville, where Ralph was school principal and where she gave birth to daughter, Margaret Jane. Finally they settled in Fort Wayne, where her husband served for many years as teacher and administrator with the Fort Wayne Community Schools. Following two decades as homemaker, she found a very satisfying professional vocation as a librarian for 17 years with the Allen County Public Library, staffing the Record Room and various parochial school library collections. In each place, she and her family were active members of United Methodist Churches: Spring Hill, Ridgeville, and in Fort Wayne, Forest Park, Simpson, Good Shepherd; then finally at Angola United Methodist. She was a longtime member of United Methodist Women. Following retirement, she and Ralph served three semesters as volunteers at the United Methodist-affiliated McCurdy School in Espanola, New Mexico. He died in 1993, leading eventually to her move to Angola to be near her devoted daughter Jane. She was among the very first residents of Cameron Woods, which she found to be a superior senior living facility and where she spent over nine happy years making new friends, visiting New York City and the Chicago area to be with family, and in others ways sharing her abiding love for family and friends. Throughout her life, she was an avid devotee of classical music, both recorded and in live concert, as well as of folk music, especially that of her Swiss-German heritage. She had a gift for needlework and created numerous colorful banners for use in church and to celebrate family occasions. She is survived by her daughter, M. Jane (George) Gear of Angola; son, Rev. George D. (Rev. Tilda Norberg) McClain of Staten Island, N.Y.; five grandchildren, Jeff Gear of San Francisco, Ted Gear of Batavia, Ill. and Jay Gear of Red River, N.M., and Shana and Noah Norberg- McClain, both of Brooklyn, N.Y.; and five great-grandchild ren, Samantha, Kailey, Emma, Silas, and Adrian. She was preceded in death by her brothers, C. August, Emil, Jr. and Walter Nagel. Memorial service is 1 p.m. Thursday at Cameron Woods, with visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Weicht Funeral Home, Angola. Family and friends are invited to a graveside funeral service at 11 a.m. Friday at M.R.E. Cemetery, Berne, followed immediately by a time of worship, remembrance, and fellowship at nearby Swiss Village. The Rev. Anita Rediger officiating. Memorial gifts may be made to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115.