

"Aunty" Giffen

Rites Held Wed.

1-10-1954

Death claimed one of Wheatlands most beloved persons Sunday afternoon, January 10, in the Wheatland hospital when Marian Ethel Giffen passed away quietly.

Mrs. Giffen began her life on December 25, 1878, in Jacksonville, Florida, as Marian Ethel Richie. At the age of three it was learned by her parents that she was deaf and doctors informed them she would never speak. The family moved to New York State and in 1887 her mother passed away. With her father and two sisters they moved to Colorado Springs in 1888, later traveling by covered wagon to Douglas, like pioneers seeking a new location. They remained there for several years

She was a very active member of the Business and Professional Women's Club and for the past 25 years was a member of the WTK club of which she was looking forward to her Life Membership to have been awarded her this year.

Surviving the deceased are: a sister, Mrs. George Mason of Calgary, Canada; a nephew, John K. Phifer of Wheatland, and several nieces and nephews in Canada.

Services were held in the Congregational Church of which she had been a devout member. Rev. Alan Inglis officiated at

the 2 o'clock services Wednesday afternoon.

Burial was made in the wheatland cemetery with Fergie Mitchell, N. F. Hester, I. A. Peterson, Joe Campbell, Reuben Good and Howard Fish acting as pallbearers.



where her father was later buried.

Leaving Douglas, Mrs. Giffen moved to Colorado Springs where she attended a school for the deaf. Upon graduation she remained and taught for three years, later moving to Cheyenne and in 1916 came to Wheatland to work as a housekeeper for the late Dr. and Mrs. Phifer.

It was in Wheatland where she met and married Mrs. Phifer's brother, who was also deaf. Together, they operated the hospital laundry until Mr. Giffen's death in May, 1921. She continued on at the hospital until she was confined to bed with arthritis.

In 1927 she moved into a small house where she lived the remainder of her life until falling and breaking her hip in March of 1953. She was confined to the hospital where her many friends were generous with their gifts and visits.