

Willa Jean Nichols, age 84, went to her Savior's arms on Nov. 17, 2011, after a long battle with cancer and heart disease. Willa was born Willa Jean Sedivy on August 18, 1927 in Enid, Oklahoma where she grew up on a small farm with three younger brothers (Frank, Victor, and Roger Sedivy) and her Czech parents (Anna and Victor Sedivy). During the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, the close family lived off the land with their chickens, potatoes, tomatoes, and onions and crops of corn, barley, and wheat. They would fish, hunt rabbits and squirrels, and forage for wild berries. Without electricity or running water, the four children grew up strong and healthy. Willa had a quirky sense of humor about those times. With her hard work and perseverance, Willa was an attribute to the "Greatest Generation." She was known for her extremely generous and kind nature with people and animals. She graduated from Covington High School in the class of 1945. Willa won a poetry presentation where she brought tears to her teacher's eyes by reciting "The Murder of Lidice," a true story of a Czech town's destruction by Nazis. After attending two years at Oklahoma State University, she married Stanley O. Nichols. Willa was given two children (Sandra and Laura) and thirteen happy years of marriage. She retired from the Broken Arrow Public Schools where she worked as a secretary for 26 years. She was a member, for 40 years, of the First United Methodist Church in Broken Arrow. Friends and family laughed with her for her practical advice and funny sayings. The world has lost a gentle, caring, and brave soul and we will miss her dearly. Preceding her in death are her parents, husband, one brother (Victor Sedivy II), and one nephew (Victor Sedivy III). Family suggests contributions to your charity of choice. Graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Covington Cemetery in Covington, Okla., under the direction of Christain-Gavlik Funeral Home (918-251-6464). Please leave a message for Willa Jean's family online by clicking the "obituaries" tab at Christian-GavlikFuneralHome.com.