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**BARBARA "THELMA"
LEE COOK**

Ms. Barbara "Thelma" Lee Cook, passed away May 1, 2003 at Park Plaza Hospital. Ms. Cook was born in Grapeland to the late Jim and Thelma Lee Cook. Ms. Cook and her sister, who preceded her in death, were reared by their grandmother, the late Ida Dancer, and step grandfather, Lenzy Dancer.

Ms. Cook joined church at an early age in Trinity, where her grandparents relocated, before moving to Houston. There she later joined in 1959, Green Meadow Missionary Baptist Church under the Reverend E.A. Penson, where she remained, under the current leadership of Reverend Roy Stewart. Ms. Cook worked in many capacities in the church but most will remember her for her "voice". Ms. Cook sang beautifully, never missing a chance to sing her favorite songs, which were also favorites of her grandmother.

Ms. Cook graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, class of 1961, and Franklin Beauty School. Ms. Cook worked a short time in her godmother's beauty salon, realized this was not her first love, and began work for Fed Mart, remaining there for 20 years, until they closed their stores.

Then began her years with the Excel Family, working long and hard hours, but reaping bountifully in blessings. Many loving relationships were established as she generously gave herself to the fulfillment of her job.

Survivors include two aunts Mattie Potts, of Missouri City, Lois Wilburt, of Crockett; one uncle J.B. Gibson, of Grapeland; one sister Carolyn Simmons (James), of Missouri City; one brother Jim Cook, Jr., of Grapeland; and stepmother Ira Lee Cook, of Grapeland.

Ms. Cook had many special friends Nina Bailey, "Clarence," Pearl and King, Fredrica; and a very special "guardian angel" Bernalda White; her pride and joy Patricia, Epiphany, and Lynle-Morgan; and many relatives and friends mourn her passing, and will miss her famous "buttermilk pies."

Preceded in death by her mother Thelma Cook; grandparents Lenzy and Ida Dancer; paternal grandparents Fred and Lorena Cook; her father Jim Cook; sister Patricia Ann Cook-Flakes; aunt Elraina; uncle Bubba; and a very special nephew Robert Flakes, Jr.

Funeral services for Ms. Barbara "Thelma" Lee Cook were held Saturday, May 10, at 11:00 a.m. in Green Meadows Missionary Baptist Church in Houston with Rev. Roy E. Stewart officiating. Interment followed in the Paradise Cemetery.

Paradise Funeral Home