

**Biographical Information**  
**Clara Stine Hughes**  
**January 16, 1912 – June 20, 2010**

Clara Stine Hughes was born on January 16, 1912 in Ashley, Pennsylvania. She was a daughter of the late Harvey Edward Stine and Emma Thomas Stine. A graduate of Ashley High School, class of 1929, she was employed while in high school as a part-time secretary for the superintendent and a carrier for *The Evening News* newspaper.

Following the successful completion of high school, Clara secured employment as a telephone switchboard operator, circulation clerk, and Ashley Correspondent with *The Evening News* newspaper in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Prior to a labor strike and the merger of the Wilkes-Barre newspapers, she was transferred to the Nanticoke, Pennsylvania office to manage the Circulation Department. Unfortunately, due to her lack of senior status, she was then required to depart her employment with the newspaper. With her writing experience and knowledge of the newspaper industry, she volunteered her skill and time managing publicity for every organization of which she was a member.

On July 18, 1934, Clara married R. Jay Hughes, who was employed as the Nanticoke representative for *The Evening News*, later known as *The Times Leader Evening News*, and today known as *The Times Leader* for 46 years. It was through their employment that Clara and Jay met and through the afternoon edition of *The Evening News* on September 13, 1935 that they announced their marriage to their families and the world – some 15 months after the ceremony had taken place. During World War II, while Jay was serving in the United States Navy, she was employed in his absence as the Nanticoke representative managing news and advertising. In addition, Clara was later employed as a bookkeeper for the Wesley Auto Company in Nanticoke and before retiring in June 1980 was employed at The Boston Store, today known as Boscov's, in Wilkes-Barre for 21 years.

Mrs. Hughes was a “cradle-Methodist.” While growing up and residing in Ashley she attended the Centenary United Methodist Church and served as a Sunday school teacher and member of the youth choir. Following her marriage in 1934, she transferred her membership to the First United Methodist Church of Nanticoke where she served as secretary of the Administrative Board, treasurer of the Corner Class, secretary of the Women's Circle, coordinator of the Sunday church bulletin sponsors, chair of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee, and a member of the Trustee Board.

Clara was a 63-year member of Nanticoke Chapter No. 174, Order of the Eastern Star where she served as an officer since 1947 and secretary from 1964 to 2003. She was also a member and former secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Nanticoke Craftsman's Club.

In addition, she was a former member of the Nanticoke State Hospital Auxiliary and the Girl Scout Council of Nanticoke. Her voluntary services included: the Nanticoke State Hospital Auxiliary Hospitality Shop, American Red Cross Blood Mobiles (for 20 years), the United States government commodity project and public relations volunteer for the Nanticoke-Newport Chapter of the American Red Cross.

She was not only preceded in death by her husband but also her only daughter: Louise Jayne who died very suddenly in December 1962 at the age of 20. Clara's earthly life concluded on Sunday, June 20, 2010 at the age of 98.