Jean Marie Blakely, 86

April 5, 1923 - Jan. 3, 2010

IOWA CITY – Jean Marie Blakely, 86, died Sunday January 3, 2010, at Atrium Village in Hills, following a brief illness.

Jean was born at Prairie Rose in rural Shelby County, Iowa, to Alvin L. and Sylvia Mae (Rold) Christensen on April 5, 1923. After graduating from Harlan High School in 1940, she married Floyd T. Blakely on August 13, 1941. Floyd and Jean farmed at Harlan until 1951 when they moved to LeMars. Jean had a busy life – briefly taught school, was a 4-H leader, Sunday School teacher, volunteered for the Red Cross, the Floyd Valley Hospital Auxiliary, sewed for Handicare in Coralville, and loved gardening, quilting, swimming and traveling. She was a longtime member of the Methodist Church. Most of all Jean loved her family and friends.

She worked at the LeMars Flower Shop for seven years, purchasing it in 1959 and operated it until 1971. During this time she was active in the LeMars Chamber of Commerce, the Siouxland Florist Association and the Society of Iowa Florists. After selling the business she and Floyd lived in Rock Rapids for two years, then back to LeMars until 1987 when they retired to Iowa City.

Preceding Jean in death was her husband of 68 years, Floyd, her parents, infant daughter Judith, brothers Alvin Jr., Earl, Kenard and Richard Christensen and her sister Jacqueline Dinesen Petry.

She is survived by her son Dr. Jerry Blakely (Karen) of Carlsbad, CA, daughters Karen (Rex) Daubenberger of Iowa City, Mary (John) McDonald of LaCresecent, MN; grandchildren, Michael Blakely (Marni), Peter Blakely (Marla Sarkozy), Lisa Johnson (Paul), Kari Allen (Robb) and Kelly Wardwell (Chris, nine great-grandchildren and sister-in-law Marilyn (Petersen) Christensen of Grass Valley, CA.

Services will be at a later date in Cuppy's Grove Cemetery near Harlan.

Memorial donations may be made in her honor to the Salvation Army or to Atrium Village, Hills.