

Velma Boysen, 93

Dec. 15, 1920 - July 14, 2014

HARLAN — Velma Ruth Boysen was born on December 15, 1920 to Glenn and Hazel (Franklin) Babbitt near Marne. She was baptized at the Monroe Chapel where she remained a lifetime member. She attended school at Clay No. 9 and graduated from Walnut High School with the Class of 1936 at the age of sixteen. Velma helped on the family farm until she was old enough to teach school at Brighton No. 3.

Velma taught until she married Clifford Boysen on August 10, 1941 at the Monroe Chapel near Walnut. They were blessed with four children: Byron, Dwight, Glenda, and Lonnie. Velma enjoyed being a homemaker and was involved with her children's activities. She and Cliff believed that the kids should be in as many activities as possible so they didn't have time to get into trouble. She was a 4-H leader for the Monroe Merry Makers, judged for achievement shows, won a service award for her work with 4-H, helped at the county fair, taught Sunday School, was president of the Band Boosters and Women's Society, gardened, quilted, loved to mow her lawn and in her spare time, she helped anyone she thought needed help. In high school she was on the basketball team and her biggest disappointment was that none of her kids played basketball. That didn't stop her from going to every game. She was ecstatic when she got a free senior pass to the games. She worked as an egg candler at the Elk Horn Produce, managed the Danish Inn in Elk Horn, cooked at the Elk Horn School, and managed the Colonial Inn in Walnut. She retired in 1986 to take care of her husband. After his death in 1994, she stayed active with the women's group at church, quilting, volunteering at the Museum of Danish America, and spending time with her family. Velma moved to Le Mars to be closer to her daughter's family. She died on Monday, July 14, 2014, having attained the age of ninety-three years, six months, and twenty-nine days.

Velma was preceded in death by her parents, Glenn and Hazel Babbitt; husband Clifford Boysen; brothers: Hubert, Bud, and Dean Babbitt; and sisters: Darlene Killion, Doris Stevens, and Clara Jones. She is survived by her children: Byron Boysen and his wife, Diana, of Argyle, WI, Dwight Boysen and his wife, Teresa, of Custer, SD, Glenda and her husband, Bob Heyderhoff, of Le Mars, and Lonnie Boysen of Harlan; nine grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; brothers: Bill Babbitt and his wife, Maye, of Avoca and Dell Babbitt and his wife, Sharon, of Estes Park, CO; sisters: Hyla Nash of Atlantic and Neva and her husband, Lee Manz, of Avoca; other family members and friends.

Pastor Darwin Moore officiated the 10:00 a.m. funeral service on Saturday, July 19, 2014 at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan. Dianne Book accompanied vocalist Elizabeth Book. Serving as casket bearers were Larry Manz, Shawn Heyderhoff, Doug Boysen, Darren Boysen, Zach Boysen, and Gary Stevens. Interment was held at the Monroe Township Cemetery near Walnut.



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