

Harlan, Iowa Tribune, Tuesday July 19, 2005, page 5-B

Kathrine Jensen, 100 ✓

Oct. 4, 1904 - June 7, 2005

AVOCA — Kathrine Jensen was born Kirsten Katrine Neilsen-Hjornel to Christian and Jensine Neilsen-Hjornel, Oct. 4, 1904. The family lived on a farm outside the village of Vittrup, in Vendsyssel, Denmark. Kirsten attended school from age 7 to 14, and at age 16, she entered the work force as a hired hand. At age 17, she met her future husband, Nels Jensen. Nels moved to the United States, and in December, 1923, Kirsten followed.



Kirsten married Nels Oct. 17, 1924, in Harlan. After they married, they began their own farming business, living in the Avoca and Hancock areas but moving often for better farming opportunities. In 1959, they retired from farming and bought a house in Avoca. They became United States citizens Sept. 11, 1959, and Kirsten took the legal name of Kathrine Jensen. Following their retirement from farming, Kathrine and Nels began doing furniture repair and upholstery. After Nels' death Dec. 21, 1990, Kathrine sold their home in Avoca and moved to Peace Haven Retirement Home in Walnut. She lived there until late 2002, when she went to live with her eldest daughter, Elsie Baker, in Council Bluffs. She was a lifetime member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca. She was a member of the local Garden Club. The Avoca Journal-Herald named her "Homemaker of the Week" in 1975. She died June 7, 2005, at her daughter's home in Council Bluffs at age 100 years, eight months, and three days.

Preceding Kathrine in death were her parents; her husband of 66 years, Nels Jensen; two sons, Carl Jensen and Elmer Jensen; one daughter, Ellen Kjeldgaard; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Survivors include two daughters, Elsie Baker of Council Bluffs, and Betty Paulsen of Atlantic; one son, Robert (Ellen) Jensen of Tennant; one daughter-in-law, Frances Jensen of Harlan; 22 grandchildren; 43 great-grandchildren; 11 great-great-grandchildren; and other relatives in Denmark and the United States.

Funeral services were held June 11, 2005, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca, with Pastor Bernard Dalker and Michael Costello officiating. Honorary casket bearers were Pam Card, David Jensen, Wade Jensen, Randy Jensen, Dwayne Paulsen, and Kevin Kjeldgaard (deceased). Casket bearers were Kathe Weihs, Jeff Jensen, Jinea Calaby, Mitch Jensen, Julie Maguire, Rhonda Scott, Debra Williams, and Denise Deschamp. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery in Avoca. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.