

Harlan, Iowa News Advertiser 27 Jan 2006

Melba Jorgensen, 91

Jan. 6, 1915 - Jan. 14, 2006

HARLAN — Melba LaVon Jorgensen, daughter of Hoyt A. and Doris E. (Dent) Tague, was born near Kirkman Jan. 6, 1915. She attended Polk #8 through eighth grade and graduated in 1932 from Harlan High School. She took normal training and many courses from Drake and Iowa State Teachers College. Melba's first teaching job was at Polk #8. She made her first home in Fiscus and later lived in Harlan for many years.

Melba married Harry Jorgensen in May, 1935. After Harry's death in August, 1946, she and Gary lived with her parents, who helped her raise her young son. She first taught in the Harlan rural schools, and later became the case worker for the Iowa Department of Social Services in Audubon County. When she retired she became the caretaker for her elderly parents, and cared for them for several years until their deaths. She lived in her own home until July, 2004, when she moved to the Elm Crest Retirement Community. Melba taught Sunday School for the Churches of Christ for decades, both while she was working full time and after she retired. She was a member of Business and Professional Women. She died Jan. 14, 2006, in Harlan at age 91 years, and eight days.

Melba was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and her brother, Wayne (Bill) Tague. Those who celebrate her life include one son, Dr. Gary (Camelia) Jorgensen of Harlan; one sister Lynn Rice of Omaha, NE; one brother, Hoyt (Phyllis) Tague, Jr. of Mountain Home, AR; three grandchildren, Richard Jorgensen of Audubon and Rachelle (Todd) Sorensen and Christina (David) McIlwain, both of Hendersonville, TN; nine great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and other relatives.

Memorial services were held Jan. 17, 2006, at the Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home with Roy North, Evangelist, officiating. Burial of ashes was in the Redline Cemetery in rural Shelby County.

