

Harlan, Iowa News Advertiser, Friday July 18, 2003

Florence Larsen, 88

Dec. 29, 1914 - June 17, 2003

IRWIN – Florence Eileen Larsen was born Dec. 29, 1914, the daughter of Eddie and Ethel Alwill French in Botna, and was baptized in the Methodist faith July 17, 1927. She received her education at the Irwin Community School, graduating from the Irwin High School.

March 25, 1936, Florence married Leland Larsen at the home of her parents near Irwin. The couple made their home on a farm near Irwin, where they farmed until moving to Denison in 1990. In 1995, they entered the Manilla Manor and Leland died in 1998. Florence was a member of the United Methodist Church in Irwin and the Jefferson No. 7 Ladies Club. While living in Aurora, CO, she sold real estate for a short time and then operated Leland and Florence's Cafe. Florence attended class reunions and was the only living class member at her 71st class reunion, where she was honored with the Seventy-one Year Irwin High School Alumni Award. She died June 17, 2003, at the Manilla Manor at age 88.

Florence was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Leland; two grandsons, John Christiansen and Kenneth Christiansen; a son-in-law, Louis Lorenzen; and a sister-in-law, Arlene French. Survivors include two daughters, Phyllis Lorenzen of Denison; Alys Mae Beam (Ralph) of Manilla; one son, Larry Larsen of Boulder City, NV; eight grandchildren, Rick Beam (Sara), Diane Bauer (Kenny), Cynthia DeLance (Scott), Vickie Hanson (Jeff), Julie Brown, Donna Brink (Ron), Michael Larsen (Laurie), Lori Naumann (Jeff); 19 great grandchildren and one great great grandson; one brother, Howard French of Manilla; a sister-in-law, Viola Minikus of Alexandra, MN; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 20, 2003, at the United Methodist Church in Irwin, with Rev. Kristine Frank officiating the services and graveside rites at Oakhill Cemetery in Irwin. Casket bearers were Michael Larsen, Larry Larsen, Carl French, Scott DeLance, Kenny Bauer and Rick Beam. The Huebner Funeral Home in Denison, in charge of arrangements.