

Harlan, Iowa Tribune
Tuesday December 7, 1988, pg 5-C

Fern M. Rold, 92

HARLAN – Fern Marie Rold, the daughter of Christian E. and Della Rebecca (Roland) Rold was born one of eight sisters at Harlan on March 28, 1896. She died at the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan, Nov. 13, 1988 at age 92 years, seven months and 16 days.

At age 7, she moved with her family to Post Falls, ID. She graduated from school at age 16, but was refused an Idaho teaching certificate because she was too young and the students would be older and bigger than she. She wrote to her cousin back in Iowa to find her a school and she taught country school in Iowa for the next 15 years. She attended Bethel Baptist Seminary in St. Paul, MN and in 1930, she realized a dream come true as she sailed to Assam, India, to become a missionary teacher at the Guaro Girls School. This she did for the next 32 years, returning to Iowa only three times on furlough.

In 1962, she retired and lived with family for a time until she moved into an apartment. She became a resident of the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan Dec. 1, 1980 and this has been her home since that time. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Harlan.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by five sisters, Abbie, Sylvia, Miriam, Clela and Lois. She is survived by two sisters, Fae Carstensen and Edith Christensen both of Harlan; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Nov. 17, 1988 at First Baptist Church in Harlan with Rev. Owen E. Wherrett, Interim Pastor of First Baptist Church officiating, assisted by Rev. James M. Wood, former missionary to India. Burial was in Harlan cemetery with Don Blakely, James Jensen, Paul A. Pauley, Gene Arentson, Kenneth Peters and Jack F. Christensen serving as casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.