

Doris Arlene Marcks Ruechel Schmarzo, 68 ✓

Dec. 9, 1927 - Oct. 23, 1996

CHARLES CITY, IA - Doris Arlene Marcks Ruechel Schmarzo was born Dec. 9, 1927, at St. Ansgar, daughter of Walter and Leona Braun Marcks. She graduated from St. Ansgar High School in 1945. She studied voice with Marie Spencer of St. Ansgar and opera with Bartold Busch of Minneapolis where she received her formal music education. She then traveled as a member of the Parkinson Music Ensemble for two years.

In August of 1947, she married Wayne Ruechel at St. Ansgar. They divorced in 1958. She moved to Charles City in 1958 where she became choir director at the First Congregational Church.

Aug. 6, 1965, she married Kenneth Schmarzo at Charles City. She played trumpet in the Charles City Municipal Band, the Charles City Brass Quintet and the Polka Prost. She also played taps for military honor ceremonies at cemeteries with the Charles City American Legion. She was a member of the First Congregational Church where she was choir director for 37 years, organist for 25 years and was a former director of the Youth Handbell Choir. She was a voice coach and piano accompanist to countless students for 50 years, played trumpet in numerous area polka bands for 15 years, was a member of the North Iowa Municipal bands in the communities of St. Ansgar, Clear Lake, Osage, Mason City and Charles City for 57 years, played trumpet in the North Iowa Concert Band, was a member of the North Iowa Band Festival Alumni Marching Band, was an accompanist for state and local music contests, played organ at Ray's Pizza Sing-Alongs, participated in numerous community plays, and was manager of the Boyer Music Store in Charles City for several years. She died Oct. 23, 1996, at Charles City at age 68.

She was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth Schmarzo of Charles City; two sons, Bill (Carolyn) Schmarzo of Palo Alto, CA and Al (Jenny) Ruechel of Clearwater, FL; a daughter, Suzette (Alan) Blakestad of Avoca; eight grandchildren; a sister, Geneva (Jim) Hanna of Osage; a niece and a nephew and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 27, 1996 at the First Congregational Church, Charles City with Reverend Jack Ivey officiating. Burial was in the Riverside Cemetery, Charles City. Casket bearers were Ryan Blakestad, Russ Foth, Michael Hanna, Tom Keiser, Dick Knight and Jim Schneckloth. Hauser Funeral Home, Charles City, in charge of arrangements.