

Lorna M. Tinsley, 83

May 7, 1917 - Feb. 8, 2001

HARLAN — Lorna Dorothy Tinsley, daughter of C.F. and Louise (Kleinpell) Murphy, was born May 7, 1917, in Elkader. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Elkader. She attended Elkader High School graduating with the class of 1935. Lorna's education was an important part of her life and the life of her family. Her mother was the first woman in Elkader to attend and graduate college attending the University of Wisconsin. Her grandfather, D.D. Murphy, was a longtime member and later president of the Iowa State Board of Education, the forerunner of the present Board of Regents. Lorna's education continued at Elkader Junior College, then The University of Chicago where she received her undergraduate degree in 1939. She then attended the University of Iowa Law School where she received her Jurist Doctorate Degree in 1942. She joined her father in the practice of law in Elkader, as a third generation attorney. She practiced law with the firm until January of 1946.



She married William H. Tinsley at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Elkader, Jan. 7, 1946. Three children were born to this union. The couple then made their home in Harlan, where, together, they operated Tinsley's Jewelry Store, a third generation family business. As a young mother, she was active in her children's activities. These included Cub Scouts, Brownies, Girl Scouts as well as their school life. She maintained her membership in the Iowa State Bar Association until her retirement and was an active member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, Myrtle Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and the Shelby County Historical Society. After her husband's death in 1976, she continued to operate the store with their son, Bob, for another year. In July of 1973, she was appointed first Magistrate for Shelby County. As Magistrate, she presided over various court cases where juries were not involved. She retired from this position in 1983, and continued to make her home in Harlan. She died at her home Feb. 8, 2001, at age 83 years, nine months and one day.

In addition to her parents and husband, William, Lorna was preceded in death by her son, William C. Tinsley, in an automobile accident in 1989. Survivors include her daughter, Barbara Tinsley, and her son, Robert Tinsley, both of Iowa City; two sisters, Barbara Moline of Dallas, TX and Kathleen (Mrs. Roy) Schmeichel of Dubuque; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Feb. 12, 2001, at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Rev. Howard Fitzgerald celebrant. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Marcus Kelly, Michael Byrnes, Nathan Kelly, Jerry Larson, Gene Cavanaugh and Alan Kelly casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.