

Harlan, Iowa Tribune, Tuesday September 11, 2007

Leona Wiese, 101

Jan. 16, 1906 - Aug. 10, 2007

IRWIN - Leona Marie Wiese, daughter of John Henry and Marie Margaretta (Witt) Andresen, was born Jan. 16, 1906, near Irwin. She attended Irwin schools and graduated in 1924. Leona was an outstanding basketball player and in honor of her accomplishments she was inducted into the Iowa Girls' Basketball Hall of Fame in 1990. After high school, she acquired her teaching certificate in Storm Lake and taught rural school in the Irwin area.

June 26, 1929, Leona married Carl F. Wiese in Denison. Three children were born to this union, Lyla (1930), Ladelle (1932), and Allan (1935). In 1948, she was named Homemaker of the Year by the Shelby County Extension. Carl and Leona retired from farming in 1962 and moved to Irwin. The couple took pride in being responsible for the upkeep of the Irwin park. Leona was a longtime member of the United Methodist Church and UMW. She was instrumental in bringing the Senior Citizens' Center and congregate meals to Irwin and was the first president of the Keenagers' Group. She was a charter member of the Jefferson Community Club, Library Club, and Shelby County Historical Society. She also was a member of the Pleasant Valley Club and Shelby County Rural Teacher's Association. For her many volunteer and humanitarian efforts, Governor Ray presented Leona an Outstanding Senior Citizen Award in 1974. Leona was very active in the Republican party and served as a state delegate in 1964. She became a resident of the Manilla Manor April 18, 2005 and died there Aug. 10, 2007, at age 101 years, six months, and 25 days.

Preceding Leona in death were her parents; husband; children, Lyla Thompson and Allan Wiese; infant great-grandson, Joseph Goans; granddaughter-in-law, Kristin Wiese; and siblings, Lester Andresen, Velma Knudson, and Maureen Barten. She is survived by daughter, Ladelle (Orlando) Hanson of Manilla; son-in-law, Allan Thompson; daughter-in-law, Theda Wiese; nine grandchildren, Kathleen Goans; Lanette Sawyer; Craig Thompson (Diane); Dan Thompson; Lana (Leonard) Cadwell; Lance Hanson (Jamie); Roger Wiese (Chris); Jean (Todd) Stadtlander; and Ron Wiese; 18 great-grandchildren; 15 great-great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 14, 2007, at the United Methodist Church in Irwin, with Pastor Keith Pals officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery. Casket bearers were Kathleen Goans, Craig Thompson, Jean Stadtlander, Lana Cadwell, Roger Wiese, Lance Hanson, Lanette Sawyer, Dan Thompson, and Ron Wiese. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.