

**Ruth Sorensen, 87**

Jan. 13, 1922 - July 21, 2009

**NEW LONDON** —Ruth Ellen

Sorensen, daughter of Walter F. And Selma (Wilson) Rhodes, was born on January 13, 1922, in Alice, ND. Her family later moved to Harlan, where Ruth was a member of the First United Methodist Church. It was there that she met her future husband, JW, at the church youth group. Ruth attended Harlan High School and graduated with the class of 1940.



Ruth was united in marriage to Jack "JW" Wendell Sorensen on August 18, 1940, at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan. Four children were born to this union: Rosalie, Patricia, Jack, and Robert. After their wedding, Ruth and JW made their home

in Harlan where Ruth was a stay-at-home mom. She took a lot of pride in her home and made sure it was always clean and that her family's clothes were always clean. She enjoyed being in the kitchen and was an excellent cook. Ruth was the strength of her family and was looked up to by many. In 1942, Ruth and JW moved to Council Bluffs but in 1985, they moved back to Harlan. Ruth went through much of her life without having a driver's license but at the age of 50, and after three different instructors, she received her license from the State of Iowa. Ruth was a loving person and enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She also loved cats and often adopted strays, including Tiger who lived to be twenty-four years old. Ruth also spent many hours volunteering at area organizations, including the Broadway Methodist Church where she was also a member of the church auxiliary. Ruth died on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, at the New London Nursing and Rehab Center in New London, having attained the age of eighty-seven years, six months, and eight days.

Ruth is preceded in death by her parents; her husband JW; her brother Victor; and her sisters-in-law Rosie Rhodes and Maxine Kemp. She is survived by her children: Rosalie Outka of Mt. Pleasant; Patricia and her husband Dennis Bailey of Council Bluffs; Jack Sorensen and his wife Judith of Bulverde, TX; Robert Sorensen and his wife Joy of Sealy, TX; nine grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; cousins; other family members and friends.

Funeral services were held on Monday, July 27, 2009, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Harlan. Rev. Dave Swinton officiated the

*Pauley Jones*

10:30 AM service with interment at the Harlan Cemetery. Serving as casket bearers were Ron Pash, Richard Andersen, Mert Kastens, Kirk Jacobsen, Jerry Chamberlain, and Richard A. Jones.

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