

## THE LIFE STORY OF **Ella Sorensen, 84**

Ella Sorensen, daughter of Soren Adam and Johanna Mathilda Heilesen, was born on a farm near Cuppy's Grove in Shelby co. on July 28, 1899. The family later moved to a farm near Kirkman where Ella grew up and attended country school. She received teachers training at Cedar Falls and taught for several years near Harlan and Iowa City.

On March 13, 1926 she married Alfred Sorensen. Following his graduation from medical school, they lived in Moreland, Utah for five years while he completed his internship. During this time two children were born to this union. In 1938 they moved to Harlan.

Ella was an active member of the Methodist church, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Order of Eastern Star, of which she became a 50-year life member in 1981. She lived and worked in Harlan for about 25 years until she sold her home and lived for awhile near her daughter in San Jose, CA., as well as some years with her son in Canonsburg, PA. She returned to San Jose in recent years to again be near her daughter and family and her sister, Hazel Nordquist.

She died on July 25, 1984 in San Jose, CA at the age of 84 years, 11 months and 28 days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Alfred Sorensen; four brothers, Arthur, Elmer, Frank and Dr. William Heilesen; four sisters, Beulah Adams, Martha Maysent, Marie Sorensen and Florence Leslie. She is survived by her daughter, Mary Lou (Mrs Dale) Mitchell of San Jose, CA. and her son Dr. Alfred Sorensen of McMurray, PA.; five grandchildren; one sister and many nepehws, nieces and other relatives.

Services were held at Burmeister Funeral Home on Saturday, July 28, 1984 with Rev. George Gibson officiating and a special ceremony by members of the Harlan Chapter of the Eastern Star. Burial was at the Harlan cemetery with Forest Adams, Rex Adams, Gaylord Heilesen and Eugene West serving as casketbearers.

Burmeister Funeral Home in Harlan was in charge of arrangements.