

Harlan, Iowa Tribune, Tuesday April 10, 2007, page 8-A

## Leola Baker, 84

*Dec. 12, 1922 - March 15, 2007*

**HARLAN** – Leola Fay Baker “Lee” was born Dec. 12, 1922, to Lafe and Myrtle (McMurphy) Fairchild on a farm east of Irwin. She attended country grade school east of Irwin, and graduated from Manning High School with the class of 1941. While in high school she took teacher training classes and taught country school near Irwin. In 1943, she moved to Omaha, NE, where she began her career in the restaurant business.



Nov. 11, 1945, Lee married Harold “Jake” Baker and moved to Harlan, where they continued to live and raise their family of five children: Larry, Doug, Susan, Cynthia, and Michelle. Lee was in the restaurant business for twenty some years as either a chef or a manager. In her later years she was employed at Western Iowa Pork, Concerned, Inc., and Communications Data Services (CDS) until retiring in November of 2000. Lee spent time taking care of her husband Jake as his health was failing. As they were preparing to celebrate their 50th wed-

ding anniversary, Jake died March 19, 1994. She died at the Avoca Nursing Home March 15, 2007, at age eighty-four years, three months and three days.

Lee was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Jake, one daughter Cynthia, one sister Noreen Pietanze, and her sister-in-law Barb Fairchild. She is survived by two sons: Larry Baker of Nashville, TN, Doug (Mary) Baker of Harlan; two daughters: Susan (Raymond) Arnold of Minden, Michelle (Gary) Blum of Harlan; thirteen grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; four sisters: Leona Erb of Harlan, Ramona Peterson of Harlan, Irma Weber of Audubon, and Dixie (Donald) Andersen of Irwin; one brother, Kelly Fairchild of Harlan; and one brother-in-law Pete Pietanze of Omaha, NE; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 17, 2007, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home with Rev. Bob Hoefler and Pastor Nancy Ross-Hullinger officiating. Casket bearers were Max Baker, Lisa Beckmann, Troy Baker, Kip Arnold, Sarah Whitford, Kelsey Brewer, Kory Arnold, and Jessica Brewer. Burial was at the Harlan Cemetery.