

## Pearl Pedersen, 105

*Aug. 18, 1898 - Jan. 10, 2004*

**WALNUT** – Pearl Hegner Pedersen was born Aug. 18, 1898, in Walnut, the daughter of Ludvig Christian Pedersen and Amelia Amalia Hegner. The Pedersens lived at 402 Atlantic Street in a small house which was later replaced with a larger house that still stands at the same location. When Pearl was about 3 or 4 years old, the family went back to Aalborg, Denmark where her parents were from, returning again to America three years later, to the same house in Walnut. Her father had a jewelry store in Walnut for many years. Pearl attended school in Walnut and later went to live in Omaha, NE and work for Brandeis Department Store. She retired from Brandeis in the early 60's and moved back to Walnut to live with her older sister, Oda. The two lived in Phoenix, AZ in the winters. Pearl drove back and forth from Walnut to Phoenix until about 1985. In 2000, Pearl moved into Peace Haven Retirement Home in Walnut. She lived an active and independent life during 12 decades and three centuries, and was the oldest living native of Walnut. She died Jan. 10, 2004, at Cass County Memorial Hospital in Atlantic, at age 105 years, four months and 23 days.

Pearl was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Felix Hegner Pedersen, Sr. and Louis Hegner Pedersen, Sr.; a nephew, Leroy Hegner Pedersen; and a niece, Loretta Hegner Buretz. She is survived by her sister, Oda Hegner Silvan of Knoxville; nieces, Pearl Elaine Legler, also of Knoxville, and Ruth Reed of Phoenix, AZ; nephews, Louis Hegner Pedersen, Jr. of Walnut; Haeven Hegner Pedersen, Sr. of Des Moines; Ludwig Hegner Pedersen of Aurora, IL; Gordon Hegner Pedersen and Rosetta Hegner Pedersen, both of West Mont, IL; Anton Hegner Pedersen of Waukegan, IL; Felix Hegner Pedersen, Jr. of Killeen, TX; and Marie Hegner Smith of Ft. Worth, TX; great nieces, great nephews and their spouses and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 14, 2004, at the Pauley Jones Funeral Home - Walnut Chapel with Pastor Orris Drake officiating. Burial was in the Walnut Cemetery. Casket bearers were Logan Blum, Tab Pedersen, Bryan Logemann, Timothy Simpson, Richard Blum and Todd Pedersen.