

Harlan, Iowa News Advertiser, Friday, September 17, 2004

Arlene Plahn, 82

Jan. 22, 1922 - July 15, 2004

FREMONT – Arlene Sorensen was born Jan. 22, 1922, in Harlan. She grew up there, graduating from Harlan High School in 1939. Following high school, she began working as a receptionist for a doctor in Harlan.

She married Thorle A. Plahn Dec. 2, 1940, in Harlan. They lived for a brief time in Harlan, then also for a brief time in California before moving back to live in Omaha. She then lived with her parents in Harlan while her husband served in the U.S. Army Air Force. On his return in 1946, they began farming in the Marne/Elk Horn area in Iowa. Then they moved to Manning, where her husband worked for a grain elevator, and then to Irwin. In 1960, the Plahns moved to Fremont where her husband worked for the Farmer's Union. In 1969, they moved to Spirit Lake, where he became a sales manager for Walnut Grove Feed Co., and in 1971 they became residents of Rising City. They moved to Friend in 1973 and moved back to Fremont in 1984. She was a member of First United Methodist Church and the auxiliary of American Legion Post 20 of Fremont. She was a Gold Star Mother. She died July 15, 2004, at A.J. Merrick Manor in Fremont, at age 82.

She was preceded in death by a son. Survivors include her husband; a daughter, Jolene (John) Nolan of Omaha; three sons, Rickie (Connie) Plahn, Thomas (Esther) Plahn and Jeffrey Plahn, all of Fremont; a sister, Ruth Treanor of Lancaster, PA; two brothers, Robert Sorensen of Miami and Donald (Sandra) Sorensen of Fayetteville, NC; 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held July 19, 2004, at the First United Methodist Church in Fremont, with Rev. Jocelyn Tupper officiating. Burial was in Memorial Cemetery.