

## Helen (Irene) Mores, 86

July 25, 1918 - Sept. 22, 2004

A Harlan native, (Helen) Irene (Frederickson) Mores, was born in Harlan on July 25, 1918 to pioneer Danish Shelby County family Morris and Anna (Christiansen) Frederickson. Her father's parents, Lars & Anna Frederickson arrived in America in 1878 and bought land in Shelby County in 1892. She died at Elm Crest Retirement Center, Harlan, on Wed., Sept. 22, 2004, after a lingering illness.

The youngest of three children, Irene, was the salutatorian of the Harlan High School Class of 1936 and later attended the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, where she earned a BA in commerce in 1941. While at Iowa she served on the University Student Publications Board, an experience which would serve her in the future. She returned to the Harlan area after college and worked in Omaha at the downtown Brandeis Dept. Store and later for Firestone Tire. It was during that time she began dating Harlan Tribune publisher Leo Mores.

She practiced ecumenism long before it was popular in Shelby County -- as a Baptist, she married a Catholic, Leo Mores on June 16, 1942. She taught Catechism to her four children, all the while maintaining her Baptist faith. While Leo served in WWII stationed in Iowa, she ran the family newspaper for three years.

Upon Leo's return from military service in 1945, they purchased the competing Harlan News-Advertiser, and the operation then became a twice-weekly newspaper.

Leo and Irene took complete ownership of the newspapers in 1958 following the 1954 death of Mark Cramer, a Wayne, NE, publisher and Denison newspaper publisher and Leo's cousin, Jack DeGaard. Both were killed in a plane crash as they approached the Denison airport. Cramer had been a partner in Leo's initial purchase of the Tribune.

Irene was a charter member of the First Baptist Church and past president and treasurer of the church Farther Lights Society.

She was a past board and charter member of the Baptist Memorial Home (now Elm Crest) and was a leader in numerous fund drives for the facility. In 1997, she was honored for her more than 20 years of service to the Memorial Home Auxiliary, many of those years serving as the group's treasurer and publicity chair. She and Leo moved to the Elm Crest's Assisted Living apartments in October, 2000 and in March, 2004 they moved into Elm Crest's Retirement Center.

A 1958 charter member of the Myrtue Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, she served 37 years on the organization as its publicity chair and historian, retiring in 1995. She also served on the Harlan Library Board as president, vice president and secretary treasurer from 1967-1983 and co-chaired the fund drive for the construction of the new Harlan Community Library in 1980.

She was secretary of the Jones Beach (West Okoboji) Property Owners Assoc. for more than 20 years.

In 1975, she was named Merit Mother of Harlan; in 1976 she was named Iowa Merit Mother, and in 1978 was named one of Harlan's Citizens of the Years.

An avid reader, she was a member of the Harlan Literary Club, enjoyed sewing and baking all the while active as a community volunteer and supporter. She continued to serve as a parttime bookkeeper and treasurer for the newspaper corporation.

She is survived by her husband, Leo; four children: Steve (Michelle) Mores, Harlan; Barbara (Martin) Johnson, Glen Ellyn, IL; Suzie (Herb) Laney, Hinsdale, IL and Alan (Donna Christensen-Mores) Mores, Harlan. Survivors also include: sister Bernadine K. White, Harlan and sister-in-law Mrs Sally (Gaillard) Frederickson, Birmingham, AL; grandchildren: Marc (Jennifer) Mores, Fairfield, OH; Michael (Cathy) Mores, Ames; Brad Johnson, Oakland, CA; Matt Johnson, Glen Ellyn, IL; Phil Johnson, Boston, MA; Scott and Jordan Laney, Iowa City; Jackson and Chandler Mores, Harlan; great-grandchild, Ashley Mores; nephew Dr. Robert Frederickson, Birmingham, AL; many other cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother Gaillard.

*Irene's father, the late Morris Frederickson, was a well-known builder having constructed numerous homes and buildings including the former Harlan Public Library, Swimming Pool and City Hall, the Bethel Baptist Church, the First Baptist Church, the Altamont Baptist Church, Shelby Presbyterian Church, the nun's home in Panama as well as over 50 homes - including the Harlan home of former Iowa Governor Kraschel. Her father was instrumental in convincing Chris Myrtue to donate his farmland to help start the fund drive for Myrtue Memorial Hospital, Frederickson later served on the first board of trustees for the hospital and the first board of trustees for the Harlan Municipal Utilities.*

