

Ruth Robinson, 97

Jan. 22, 1901 - July 26, 1998

IRWIN - Ruth Blades Robinson, daughter of George Benjamin and Jenny Stewart Blades, was born Jan. 22, 1901, at Irwin. After graduating from high school, she attended Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls before teaching in public schools for several years. She also played in a jazz band and was the first woman car owner in Irwin.

June 22, 1940, she married Raymond "Dick" Robinson in Panora. Raymond died two years later of a heart attack. Ruth served as a school teacher and was a piano player, operated a boarding house, was a reporter for the Guthrie County Vedette and served as church organist at the United Methodist Church where she also conducted a youth choir. In 1960, she became the first librarian in Panora and in 1983 was selected as the Iowa Heart Association's Volunteer of the Year. After moving back to Irwin a few years ago, she continued playing the piano with the "Kitchen Center" band. They covered much of southwest Iowa, playing at all kinds of gatherings. She died at the Baptist Memorial Home July 26, 1998, at age 97.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Raymond; her sisters, Ethel, Vale, Gertrude Blades, Clara Hauberg, Erma Blades and an infant sister; and brothers, George and Stewart Blades. She is survived by two nieces in Minnesota and nephew, Ken Robinson of Bayard, and other relatives.

Memorial services were held Aug. 15, 1998, at the Irwin Cemetery with Rev. Joe Boysen officiating. Beidelman Funeral Home of Panora in charge of arrangements.