

Ruby Mildred Christensen, 83

June 7, 1917 - Feb. 19, 2001

ELK HORN - Ruby Mildred Christensen, daughter of Andrew William and Alma Exemia (Karlsson) Carlson, was born June 7, 1917, in Glenwood. After attending school through the eighth grade, she became a housemaid in Des Moines.

June 2, 1939, in Rock Port, MO, she married Alvin Lincoln Christensen, Jr. The couple farmed in rural Harlan for several years. Later, while Al served in the military, Ruby lived in Harlan. Ruby and Al moved to Elk Horn, in 1950, where they had built a new home. Ruby worked for 15 years as a nurse's aid at the Salem Lutheran Home and for nine years at Western Iowa Pork in Harlan. In 1975, the couple built their retirement home in Elk Horn. Al died Feb. 18, 1987, in Harlan, and Ruby continued to live in her home until 1997, when she became a resident of the Salem Lutheran Home. In 1998, she moved to Sterling House Assisted Living in New Richmond, WI, to be near her daughter, Sandy Rixen. She was a member of Altamont Baptist Church in Cuppy's Grove, rural Shelby County; the Commander's Club group, and was a member of the Eastern Star in Walnut, for a number of years. She died Feb. 19, 2001, at Holy Family Hospital in New Richmond, WI, at age 83 years, eight months and 12 days.

Preceding her in death were her parents; her husband, Al; two daughters, Carolyn Christensen (in infancy) and Rosalie Petersen; five brothers, Harry Carlson, Clarence Carlson, Roy Carlson, Elmer Carlson and Lawrence Carlson; and one sister, Alma Potter. Survivors include two daughters, Ruth (Frank) Secord of Ft. Madison and Sandra (Steve) Rixen of Hudson, WI; three brothers, Robert (Martha) Carlson of Greenridge, MO; George Carlson of Scott Mills, OR and Edwin Carlson of Estes Park, CO; six grandchildren; two great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 23, 2001, at Altamont Baptist Church in rural Shelby County, with Rev. David W. Erickson officiating. Casket bearers were Frank Secord, Steve Rixen, Frank Secord, Jr., Kris Rixen, David Christensen and Byron Christensen. Burial was in Cuppy's Grove Cemetery in Monroe Township, rural Shelby County. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.