

OBITUARY

Irma Agnes Fish Harrison

IRMA AGNES FISH HARRISON was born at Atwood , Colorado, March 15, 1914 – the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Elwin D. Fish. Her preschool years were spent on the “drylands” north of Orchard, Colorado and her grade school and high school education was received at Atwood, Colorado. She attended Colorado State College in Fort Collins, Colorado and Northeastern Business College in Sterling, Colorado.

Irma married Bert A. Harrison of Vona, Colorado on September 2, 1934. For varying periods following marriage, the Harrisons lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico where their son Bert (Buck) Millard was born, and in Colorado Springs, Colorado where son Charles (Chuck) Elwin was born.

In 1944 the family moved to Fresno, California where Mrs. Harrison spent twenty-six active years. Among the various positions she held, Irma was employed for four years writing copy for the FRESNO BEE, and later she worked for eleven years in the Faculty Print Shop at Fresno State University. She was active in radio drama classes, International Toastmistress Club, many activities of her church, numerous bowling leagues, and she took a dedicated part in the study and research sessions of a World Philosophy Class. She was interested in writing and during World War II two plays that she authored were presented from the stages of theaters in Alexandria and Cairo, Egypt for the general public and for the RAF troops. These plays were under the direction of a professional English actor. She wrote drama scripts for radio station KARM in Fresno and also did radio acting. After retirement from Fresno State University she became a graduate of Famous Writers School.

Betty Brandt Small, at the age of nine, came to live with the Harrisons in 1966, along with her sister Dian Hughey Denison, at age 14. After two years Dian went to live with her married sister, but Betty became a cherished member of the Harrison family.

In 1970 Bert Harrison retired from the W. M. LYLES Construction Company of Fresno and Bert, Irma and Betty Sue moved to Fruita, Colorado. Deciding retirement was not to her liking, Irma was employed briefly at the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, then moved into a teacher-aide position at Fruita Elementary School. She was co-editor and author with Earlynne Barcus of the LOWER VALLEY HERITAGE BOOKS which were later published in condensed book form called ECHOS OF A DREAM.

While living in Fruita, Irma was active in the Fruita United Methodist Church, was Council President of the Western Colorado Toastmistress Clubs, and for a period served as pastoral secretary of the Methodist Church.

In July, 1980, Bert and Irma moved to Montrose, Colorado, establishing a home with Bert's mother, Olive Lent, and a sister, Mary Bland. During this period, Irma researched and authored the book, THEY CAME WITH BIBLE AND SPADE. This was published as a centennial project covering the first one-hundred years of history of the Methodist Church in Montrose.

Just prior to the death of her husband in 1984, the Harrisons moved back to Fruita. Following Bert's death, Irma established residence at Independence Village. *(Note to Betty. At this point Mom started the last paragraph where she gives the names of the oldest generation of survivors, not including Dian who I included below, and the numbers of the younger ones. Then she signed the document and dated it: February 27, 1996, and added the note, “Be sure the number of great grandchildren is correct.” -- all in ink. Following is my effort to fill in the gap and make corrections.)* She lived at Independence Village until 2003 when she moved to The Residence at Grand Mesa in Grand Junction in order to be closer to Charles and Betty. Due to deteriorating health she moved to Mantey Heights Rehabilitation and Care Center in October of 2006. She was also preceded in death by her son, Charles (October 2, 2004).

She is survived by her son, Bert, and daughters, Betty and Dian, four grandsons, two granddaughters, three great granddaughters and three great grandsons.