

Obituary

Shirley M. Thomsen

Shirley M. Thomsen was born May 26, 1924 in rural Exeter to Martin and Hazel Taylor Thomsen. Shirley passed away on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at the Exeter Care Center at the age of 83 years.

She attended rural schools in the area and graduated from Exeter High School in 1940. In the fall of 1942 she enrolled at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where she completed her course work to become a teacher and graduated in 1946. While a student she worked in the registrar's office at UNL; this led to a lifetime career. When she graduated, she was offered full time work in the registrar's office in the area of student records and admissions. Later she became involved with checking student graduation requirements and commencement. Shirley became secretary of the University Commencement Committee in 1951 and was named Assistant Director of Registration and Records in 1956.

In 1986 Shirley retired to Exeter to care for her mother. However, she returned to UNL to help with graduations three times a year for twenty years. She was instrumental in developing many of the policies and programs that are currently in use for graduation procedures. In 2006 she completely retired from the University.

She was baptized, confirmed and a lifetime faithful member of the Exeter United Methodist Church. Shirley was very active in the church, United Methodist Women, Exeter Senior Center, and was a volunteer at the Exeter Care Center for many years. She would pick up the mail from the post office and deliver it to all of the residents. Shirley also served as a member of the Exeter Care Center's Advisory Board. She was always a very generous, thoughtful and caring person. Shirley generously gave her love and commitment to family and friends, church, community and UNL. Shirley made her home at the Exeter Care Center on December 20, 2007, where she was welcomed by a very caring, familiar staff and residents.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, Martin and Hazel Thomsen. She is survived by cousins and many friends.

Funeral services were conducted from the United Methodist Church in Exeter on Saturday, March 15, 2008 with Rev. Jeff Adams and Kim Dunker officiating. Angie Murphy accompanied Bob Rhodes who sang "Precious Lord Take My Hand" and "His Eye Is On The Sparrow." Casket bearers were Steve Rhodes, Alan Michl, Charles Trauger, Todd Teut, Jim Dunker and John Tauriella. Honorary bearer was Clay Kucera. Interment was in the Exeter Cemetery with Farmer Funeral Home in charge of the arrangements. Memorials are directed to the University of Nebraska Foundation, Exeter Milligan School Foundation or to the Donors Choice.