

## Lorene P. Keens

Lorene P. Keens, 92, of Hutchinson, Kan., formerly of Newburg, died March 26, 2006, at Elm Grove Estates in Hutchinson.

Cremation has taken place with a memorial service to be held April 14 at 1 p.m. at Unity of Independence Church, Independence, Mo. Memorials may be sent to Hospice Care of Kansas or Unity Center of Independence in care of Elliott Mortuary, Hutchinson, Kan.

She was born Aug. 25, 1913, in Newburg, Iowa, to Charles Austin and Nora Belle Palmer. She attended grade schools in Newburg and Carpenter, Wyo., and graduated from Grinnell High School after which she attended Grinnell College. She was married on Dec. 30, 1931, to James Norton Keens of Sedalia, Mo. They resided in Sedalia where they operated Keens Forging Co., and later lived Ottawa and Overland Park, Kan., and Kansas City and Independence, Mo. She was a homemaker and research reference librarian at Jackson County Library and Mid Continent Library in Independence. She had been a member of Congregational Churches in Grinnell and Sedalia, and was a member of Unity of Independence in Independence where she served as board chair and founded a lending library. She was a member of D.A.R., PTA, a Girl Scout leader, P.E.O. and General Federation of Women's Clubs. She had hosted international exchange students and traveled widely.

She is survived by one daughter Nancy Masterson of Hutchinson; two sisters Dorothy Hulett of Sun City, Ariz., and Jean Whitehead of Overland Park, Kan.; five grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, one daughter, three brothers Ivan, Keith and Phillip Palmer and one great granddaughter.

GH - April 3, 2006