Mary Lou Benson

PARSONS - Mary Lou Benson, 79, of Parsons, and a former longtime Chanute resident, died at 1:44 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2004, at the Mercy Hospital in Independence. The past several years she had been cared for in the Cherryvale Care Center in Cherryvale.

She was born Aug. 29, 1925, in Kansas City, Mo., to Charles P. Belcher and Ola (Snow) Belcher.

In her early years the family lived at Parkville, Mo., and later moved to Independence. She later moved to Humboldt and graduated from the Humboldt High School in 1942. After graduating from high school she attended Phillips University at Enid, Okla., for two years.

Her first marriage was to Harold Summervill on Nov. 7, 1943. He was killed in action in Germany on March 5, 1945.

On May 11, 1946, she married Albert Benson in Chanute. They raised their four sons in Chanute and lived there until moving to Parsons in July of 1999. He preceded her in death on Sept. 19, 2000.

In 1971 she graduated from Pittsburg State University and became a substitute teacher and homebound teacher for USD 413 in Chanute. For over 50 years she was a member of the First Christian Church in Chanute, where she was active in children's work as a Sunday School teacher, Bible School teacher and a member of the Christian Women's Fellowship. For many years she was active in the Business and Professional Women's Club in Chanute and served as its president in 1977-78.

After moving to Parsons she became a member of the First Christian Church in Parsons.

Survivors include four sons John Benson of Parsons, Wayne Benson of Littleton, Colo., David Benson of St. Louis and Ralph Benson of Landenberg, Pa.; seven grandchildren; one brother, Dr. George Belcher of Independence; three sisters, Virginia Jones of Kansas City, Mo., Norma Baxter of Tucson, Ariz., and Helen Elliott of Tahlequah, Okla.; two half-brothers, Nathan Belcher of Centerville, Va., and Harold Belcher of Rogers, Ark.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Mona Prescott and a half-sister, Doris Belcher.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Carson-Wall Funeral Home, with Rev. Alvin L. Daetwiler officiating. Burial will be in the Mt. Hope Cemetery at Humboldt. The family will receive friends at the Carson-Wall Funeral Home from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Carson-Wall Funeral Home of Parsons.

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