

Funeral rites January 3 for Goldie Benson

Funeral Services for Mrs. Thomas L. Benson, the former Miss Goldie D. Phares, were held January 3, 1969, in the Heights Funeral Chapel of Houston, Texas. Interment was in Rest Haven Cemetery of Houston.

Mrs. Benson was born October 27, 1888 near Collins Iowa, and departed this life in Houston Texas, December 31, 1968, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Love.

Goldie was the third of seven children born to John William and Didama Dickinson (Crosby) Phares. After completing the local rural school and graduating from Colo High School with the class of 1908, Goldie taught in the rural school a year, then attended Drake University

where she specialized in music education. She maintained a private practice in music, working primarily with the younger pupils, while she pursued her college studies.

During her residence in Des Moines, Goldie met with an unfortunate accident. She was thrown to the pavement by an on-coming car that did not stop for the street-car from which she was descending; she received severe injuries which impaired her hearing. But after years of persistence, patience, and kindly care from her family, Goldie was able to resume her studies and household management.

In June, 1913, Goldie was married to Thomas L. Benson, who was engaged in the building and construction trade in Des Moines, where they made their home for several years, and later, in Mason City where they lived until the death of Mr. Benson. Subsequently, after falling victim to crippling arthritis, Mrs. Benson was taken into the home of her

daughter, Mrs. Love, who had completed the nurses course in Houston.

Goldie is remembered as a very warm hearted generous person with great determination, and who succeeded against many hardships. She was reared in a rural pioneer Christian home in which each child had his own chores and other work-jobs to do. There were no bus-routes during her high-school days; the roads were hub-deep with mud in spring and fall, and snow-packed through the winters. To get her high-schooling, it was necessary to stay in town with family friends whom she assisted in the care of their young children. All who knew Goldie remembered her as a most congenial, lovable worker with children. Steadfast in her Church and Sunday-School activities, in Colo she affiliated with the Evangelical, and in Houston, with the Presbyterian Church.

Besides her daughter, Mrs. James R. Love of Houston, Mrs. Benson is survived by one other daughter, Phyllis Ann (Mrs. Max B. Williams) of Memphis Tenn; three grandchildren, Mrs. Edward Stoner of Yerka, California, Sgt. Donald R. Williams of Alaska, and Mrs. Gary Ben Cleek of Houston; two great-grandchildren, Chris Stoner of Yerka, Calif., and Tiffany Cleek of Houston; numerous cousins, nieces and nephews; and one sister, Miss Mary L. Phares of Colo, Iowa.