

## Mrs. Thompson, PHS Home Economics Teacher



Elsie **Ione Thompson**, 99, of Amarillo died Thursday, July 16, 2009. Ione was born June 13, 1910, to J.D. and Grace Bender in Edmond, Okla. Her family moved in 1912 to Panhandle, where her father farmed. She graduated from Panhandle High School in 1926 and continued her education at Central Oklahoma University in Edmond, receiving her B.A. in education and graduated from Oklahoma State University with her Master of Education. She taught in Panhandle schools for seven years, in Edmond for a year and finished her career at **Phillips High School**, where she taught home economics for 28 years.

She married Thomas Edward "Ed" Thompson in 1952 in Clayton, N.M. They were happily married and lived in Borger until 1973, when they moved to Amarillo. They were members of St. Paul United Methodist Church. Ione was a teacher, homemaker, wonderful cook, amazing seamstress, devoted wife and mother, and dearest "Auntie." She was preceded in death by her husband, Ed, in 1987; her parents, J.D. and Grace Bender; and two sisters, Iris Walcher and Maxine Biggs.

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Survivors include a stepson, Bill Thompson of Klamath Falls, Ore., whom she considered her own; five nieces, Dona Howe of Shreveport, La., Diane Spradlin of Dallas, Tina Brandon and husband Larry and Cheryl Daniel and husband Gary, all of Amarillo, and Raylene Pruitt of Canyon; a nephew, David Biggs and wife Pam of Panhandle; 13 great-nieces and great-nephews; and four great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.