

September 28, 1969

Mrs. Mary E. Debes

Mrs. Mary E. Debes, age 97, a resident of 505 N. Jackson Street died Friday evening, Sept. 8, at the 11th Street Chautauqua Guest Home where she had been a patient for 2½ months. Mrs. Debes had been a resident of Charles City, Iowa for over 83 years and from the point of continuous membership, was the oldest member of the Central Methodist Church, having joined that church in 1885. She had always maintained an interest in the church, and for years was church organist, directed the choir, taught in the Sunday School, was a member of the former Women's Foreign Missionary Society of which she was district treasurer for 24 years. She was made an honorary life member of the Women's Society of Christian Service. She was also a member of the Rebekah Lodge.

Her husband the late John C. Debes preceded her in death on January 13, 1920.

Mary Elizabeth Sippel was born Dec. 3, 1869 at Green Garden, Ill., the daughter of Martin and Anna Martha Bettenhausen Sippel. She came to Charles City on April 11, 1884 and attended the public school there. On January 13, 1892 she was united in marriage to John C. Debes in Charles City. Three children were born to this union, sons, Elmer M. and Alvin S., both of whom have preceded their mother in death and one daughter, Miss Elma M. Debes, who survives and has made her home with her mother.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at 2:00 p. m. at the Central Methodist Church.

Mrs. Debes will be remembered here by many friends, as a summer visitor, every year of the late John Sippel family; Also taking care of her farming interests east of Fernley, as long as her health permitted her to make the South Dakota trips.