

Ernest J. Smith, 88

Persia — Ernest James Smith was born Oct. 24, 1894 near Woodbine. He was the youngest son of eight children born to James and Sarah Smith.

He and Jessie Slaven were married June 5, 1917 at the Methodist church in Harlan. They farmed for many years in the Portsmouth area until they bought a farm near Persia in 1928. When they retired from farming, they moved into Persia where they resided until they became residents of Westmont Care Center at Logan in Dec., 1977. They were privileged to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary before Jessie died in April, 1978.

He was a member of the Harlan Methodist church before transferring his membership to Persia. He died at Westmont Care Center on December 20, 1982 at the age of 88 years, 1 month and 28 days.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jessie, his parents, brothers and sisters and an infant daughter, Doris LaDean. Survivors include one son Veral and wife Dorothy of Persia; daughter, Darlene and husband Merle Deupree of Lyons, Neb.; seven grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Services were held Thursday, Dec. 23, 1982 at the United Methodist church at Persia with Rev. Russell Vanderhoef officiating. Casketbearers were grandsons Bob Smith, Jack Smith, Rick Knauss, Jim Deupree, John Gustafson and Mark Smith.

Burial was at the Woodbine cemetery with Schumacher Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.