

## **Russell Barker, 73**

*Aug. 29, 1926 – Aug. 28, 2000*

**MISSOURI VALLEY** – Russell R. Baker was born Aug. 29, 1926, to Donald Clifford and Olive (Brust) Barker in the railroad depot in Percival. He attended numerous schools due to his father's employment, but spent his high school years in Denison, where he was scheduled to graduate in 1945, when he chose to enter the U.S. Navy Sept. 18, 1944. While enlisted he attended Radio Gunner school, but due to unforeseen circumstances he missed his class. He was then assigned to the Seebees (Construction Battalion) and dispatched to Okinawa where he constructed airfields. He was honorably discharged May 24, 1946. He is scheduled to receive his diploma this fall from the Denison High School. He was a crane operator with Peter Kiewit Company in both Thule Greenland and Omaha, NE. He had previously worked for Henry Eckermann of Defiance, before moving to Missouri Valley in 1959. He retired from Peter Kiewit in 1988, after 27 years of employment.

He married Ruth Eckermann, July 3, 1947, in Defiance. He was a member of the V.F.W. Eagles Club, Omaha Hawks Flying Club and St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Russell spent time flying and designing remote control airplanes and making wooden toys. He died Aug. 28, 2000, at the Longview Care Center in Missouri Valley.

Russell was preceded in death by his parents; son, Andrew; four grandchildren; one great grandchild; and sisters, Patricia Thompkins and Donna Schwingdorf. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Barker, of Missouri Valley; children, Robert Barker, Bakersfield, CA; David Barker of Blair, NE; Marie Campbell of Harlan; Clifford Barker of Missouri Valley; Rebecca Flint of Woodbine; Deborah Waterhouse of Missouri Valley; Susan White of Lee's Summit, MO; Pollyanna Shephard of Blair, NE; Jennifer Moe of Mukilteo, WA; Luke Barker of Deshler, NE; Patricia Branstetter of Magnolia; Lori Martin of Missouri Valley; brother, Dan Barker of Grand Marsh, WI; 27 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Aug. 31, 2000, at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Missouri Valley, with Father Robert Harris officiating. Burial was in the Frazier Cemetery, Missouri Valley with military honors performed by the Julius F. Muller, American Legion of Missouri Valley. Honorary casket bearers were Taraisa Groves, Shelley Gleichman, Melissa Pope, Cari Shepard, Jacob Branstetter, Donnelle Lukehart, Clifford (Boomer) Barker, Kevin Tietsort, Nicole White and Robert Moe. Casket bearers were Michael Barker, Matthew Mann, Brian Mann, Andrew Barker, Joshua Flint and Teri Shepard. Hennessey-Aman Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.