



## Orrell D. Gearhart, 78

**HARLAN** — Orrell Dale Gearhart, the son of Charles and Florence (Kibby) Gearhart, was born in Center Twp., Shelby County, May 1, 1909. He died at Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital in Omaha, NE, Jan. 16, 1988 at age 78 years, eight months and 15 days. He attended country school and graduated from Harlan High School with the class of 1928. During his high school years, he excelled as an athlete.

Aug. 17, 1930, he married Myrtle Irene Thompson in Yankton, SD. Four children were born to this union. Before coming into law enforcement, he held a variety of jobs including road construction, automobile serviceman, substitute mail carrier and farming. He quit farming in 1938, and in 1939, was appointed to be the Deputy Clerk of Court. After two years, he moved into the Sheriff's office as a Deputy. In 1943, he joined the Iowa Highway Patrol and was

stationed at Logan for three years. In 1946, he was elected Shelby County Sheriff and was subsequently re-elected to eight more two year terms and five times for four year terms. He retired Jan. 1, 1985, after 43 years in law enforcement with the knowledge of always being the top vote getter in Shelby County, and being Senior Sheriff in the State of Iowa. He has continued to reside in Harlan since that time.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church, Harlan; Parian Lodge No. 321, A.F. & A.M., Harlan and Iowa State Sheriffs' Deputies' Association and ISSDA representative to the Iowa State Association of Counties for six years.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Owen and Ellis; and one sister, Zella. He is survived by his wife, Myrtle of Harlan; one son, Larry of Rock Rapids; three daughters, Marilyn (Mrs Wayne) Tague of Castro Valley, Ca; Marlene (Mrs Lee) Klingenberg of Cedar Falls and Cheryl (Mrs Keith) Svendsen of Loveland, CO; 14 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were Jan. 20, 1988 at First United Methodist Church, Harlan with

Rev. Brian Sherman of Shelby United Methodist Church, officiating. Burial was in Harlan cemetery with Fred Louis, Jerry Larson, Roger Schaben, Rodney Schaben, Gene Cavanaugh and Charles Gearhart serving as honorary casket bearers. Serving as casket bearers were Dean Schaben, Brian Schaben, David Schaben, Blake Gearhart, Darren Svendsen and Bradley Svendsen. Pauley Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.