

## Ottis Gearhart, 94

*Nov. 18, 1908 - Aug. 1, 2003*

**COUNCIL BLUFFS** – Ottis Wayne Gearhart was born Nov. 18, 1908, in Colfax, to Frederick and Sarah Dempsey Gearhart, and later moved to Harlan.

He married Iva Maxine Duke Dec. 27, 1934, in Harlan, where all 14 children were born at home on 5th St. & Dodge. While in Harlan, Ottis worked for Rasmussen Feed Mill, Harlan Produce, Harlan Rendering Plant, & Squealer Feed Co. Ottis moved his family to Council Bluffs in the fall of 1953 working for Swanson Foods. He then worked for the Union Pacific Railroad in the mail department for 20 years, retiring in 1973. They were members of First Christian Church. They both entered Indian Hills Nursing Home in January of 2002, and Iva died June 14, 2002. Ottis died Aug. 1, 2003, at Indian Hills Nursing Home in Council Bluffs, at age 94.

Ottis was preceded in death by his wife, Iva Maxine (Duke) Gearhart; three sons, Jerry, Tom and Ronnie; two daughters, Beverly and Sharon Martinson; grandson, Daryl Gearhart, Jr., five brothers, Ted, Herbert, Jack, Bob and Walter; one infant sister; and parents, Frederick and Sarah (Dempsey) Gearhart. He is survived by four sons, Daryl (Mary), Bill, Jim (Kathy), all of Council Bluffs; Roger (Judy) of Altoona; five daughters, Shirley Jensen (Lowell) of Muskogee, OK; Sally Bugged (Gene), Linda Watson (Lynn), all of Council Bluffs; Mary Fijian and special friend, Alan Cuneal of Glenwood; Carolyn Cox (Ron) of Arvada, CO; 27 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren; one great great granddaughter; sister-in-law, Marge Gearhart of Missouri Valley; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 5, 2003, at the Cutler-O'Neill-Meyer-Woodring Funeral Home with Rev. David Erickson, pastor of First Christian Church, officiating. Burial was in the Cedar Lawn Cemetery in Council Bluffs.