

Wendell Knauss, 80

Aug. 29, 1927 - Oct. 5, 2007

HARLAN - Wendell Eugene Knauss, son of Clyde and Erma (Daugherty) Knauss, was born Aug. 29, 1927, northwest of Logan. He attended country schools near Logan and attended Logan High School. As a veteran of World War II, he served in Germany with the Army of Occupation.

While on leave, Wendell married Doris Jean Plath, also of Logan Dec. 12, 1945. Five children were born to this union: Richard, Reta, Ronald, Rhonda, and Regena. He was involved in farming in the Logan, Magnolia, and Beebeetown areas for several years. In the early 50's, they moved to Beebeetown where Wendell worked as head of maintenance at the Beebeetown School and continued his work in the newly-consolidated Tri-Center Schools. In 1963, the Knauss family moved to Persia. He became owner and operator of A-OK Sales and Service Hardware Store and continued his employment at Tri-Center until he retired in 1991. After Doris died in December 1988, Wendell remained in the Persia area where he continued as a member of the Persia Improvement Club, the American Legion Swanger Post No. 314, Persia Fire Department, serving as Chief, and was on the Board of Directors for the Persia Senior Citizen Housing, and the Board of Directors of the Home Savings Bank of Persia.

April 14, 1990, Wendell married Marilyn Hoiem and they resided in Harlan, where he later became the manager of the Regency Villa Apartments until the fall of 2006. He sat on the Board of Directors for the Shelby County Golf Course. He died Oct. 5, 2007, at Elm Crest Retirement Community at age 80 years, one month, and six days.

Wendell is preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Doris; and his sister, Donna Thomas. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn of Harlan; his children, Richard Knauss (Marilyn J.) of Council Bluffs; Reta (Don) Lantis of Dakota Dunes, SD; Ronald Knauss (Lucy) of Portsmouth; Rhonda (Gary) Nordby of Logan; Regena and (Greg) Weihs of Harlan; and stepdaughter, Jodie Bridges of Ringsted; 12 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one brother, Garry Knauss (Connie) of Logan; nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 8, 2007, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Harlan with Pastor Donna Ewert officiating. Military rites were held at Bethel Cemetery in Logan, with Stephanie Price, Stacey Smith, Kristina Bridges, Brittany Nordby, and Brooke Weihs honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Tim Knauss, Rodney Lantis, Todd Knauss, Brian Knauss, Brad Knauss, Brent Knauss, and Ryan Nordby.

