

## Wilmer Petersen, 94

March 4, 1897 — June 25, 1991

**HARLAN** — Wilmer Everett Petersen, son of Hans S. and Kristina "Katie" (Erickson) Petersen was born March 4, 1897 in Jackson twp., Shelby county. In 1900, at the age of three years, the family moved to a farm in Polk twp., where he attended country school. He later graduated from 4 C's Business College in Des Moines. Sept. 5, 1918, he entered the U.S. Army, serving his country during WW I. After his honorable discharge in Dec. of 1918, he returned to the Shelby County area where he farmed with his father.

April 4, 1922, he married Eunice Anderson at the Methodist Church Parsonage in Harlan. Two sons were born to this union. After their marriage, they lived in Harlan where Wilmer worked with several insurance companies and then was employed by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. He later was employed at the Federal Land Bank and was the first secretary-treasurer of the Harlan Production Credit Association. In 1962, he retired from the Production Credit Association and became the President of the Shelby County State Bank, where he had been a member of the Board of Directors for over 40 years. He was also in partnership with his brothers in farming and cattle feeding operations. He also had an avid interest in soil conservation projects, and was among the first to implement these programs in day to day farming. After the death of Eunice, May 12, 1973, he continued to make his home in Harlan.

May 10, 1975, he married Lucille Lowmiller in Minneapolis, MN. They made their home in Harlan where they were active members of the community and engaged in philanthropical activities, especially the Myrtue Memorial Hospital, and founded the Shelby County Health Education Foundation. Lucille died April 13, 1991 and June 25, 1991, he died at Myrtue Memorial Hospital, at age 94 years, three months and 21 days. In addition to being a member of First United Methodist Church in Harlan, he was a member of the Helmer Reyelt Post #150, American Legion; and the Parian Lodge No. 321, A.F. & A.M. Masonic Lodge of Harlan, and the Abu Bieker Shriners of Sioux City; the State Historical Society; and the Shelby County Historical Society. He was also active in the Boy Scouts Organization; was



**Wilmer Petersen**

a supporter of the Girl Scouts; a past president and past member of the Harlan Community School Board; and had been active in the 4-H organization. He had been a member of the Harlan Industrial Board, and in 1976,

he received the Citizen of the Years award from the Harlan Chamber of Commerce. In 1989, he and Lucille received the Special Appreciation Award from the Chamber of Commerce for promoting health care in Shelby County. He was also a member of the Golden "K" Kiwanis Club of Harlan.

In addition to his parents and both of his wives, he was preceded in death by a son, Russell Jack in infancy, and a brother, Vern. Survivors are his son, H. Rand Petersen (Mary Louise) of Harlan; four grandchildren, Lynn (Mrs Charles) Kindem; Allen Petersen (Patricia) Katherine (Mrs David) Linder; and Steven Petersen (Erica); eight great-grandchildren; four sisters, Myrtle Miller of Harlan; Ruby (Mrs Ray) Ferry of Irwin; Thelma Petersen of Kirkman; and Marjorie (Mrs Horace) Scheetz of Waukegan, IL.; two brothers, Archie Petersen of Kirkman and Victor Petersen of Exira; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Memorial services were held June 29, 1991 at First United Methodist Church in Harlan with Rev. D. Stephen Clinton and Rev. Janne A. Clinton, officiating. Burial was in the Rose Hill cemetery at Kirkman with Fred Louis, Jr., David K. Linder, Charles Kindem, Allen R. Petersen, Steven R. Petersen and D.G. "Si" Mathiasen honoring casketbearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.