



Philip Phelps, 76

Jan. 26, 1920 - Oct. 14, 1996

HARLAN - Philip John Phelps, son of Dr. Harrison B. and Lela (Vanatta) Phelps, was born Jan. 26, 1920, at Harlan. He was baptized and confirmed at the Methodist Church and attended school at Harlan, graduating with the class of

1938. He then attended the University of Iowa at Iowa city for one year. Dec. 9, 1940, he entered the United States Army serving his country during WW II where he was wounded in action in Italy in 1944. He received a Battlefield Commission to 1st Lieutenant, a Purple Heart and 3 Bronze Stars for serving in Algeria, Tunisia and Italy.

Oct. 27, 1944, he married Austa Nielsen at Kountze Memorial Church in Omaha. After being married, Austa came back to Harlan to live with her father while Philip returned to Europe to serve his country. They became the parents of one son, Philip, Jr. After returning to Harlan, Philip operated a greenhouse with Roy Gregory before opening the Harlan Flower Shop Oct. 9, 1947, on the east side of the square, which they operated until 1973. He was also elected to the Board of Supervisors, where he served for eight years. He was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, the Shelby County VFW Post 941 and the Helmer Reyelt Post #150 of the American Legion. He died Oct. 14, 1996, at his home in Harlan at age 76 years, eight months and 18 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Austa Phelps; his son, Philip Phelps, Jr. of Sante Fe, NM; three grandchildren; a sister, Marianne (Jack) Sondergard of Kalamazoo, MI and other relatives.

A memorial service was held Oct. 17, 1996, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan with Pastor Jon Benson officiating. Inurnment will be at a later date. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.