

Wesley Virgil Peterson, 85

April 16, 1916 - May 15, 2001

HARLAN – Wesley Virgil Peterson, son of Thorvald and Harriet (Peterson) Peterson, was born April 16, 1916, in rural Elk Horn, Shelby County. He attended Mt. Zion Country School in Audubon County.

Dec. 24, 1936, he married Dorothy Ann Nelson in Atlantic, and the couple farmed in Audubon County for many years. In 1959, he moved to Elk Horn, and continued farming. He also worked as a tractor mechanic for Elk Horn Implement and Young Implement until 1972. Wesley and Dorothy moved back to the farm in 1972, and remained there until moving to Harlan, in 1984. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Harlan. He died May 15, 2001, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 85 years and 30 days.

Preceding Wesley in death were his parents and one sister, Alfrida. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Dorothy Peterson of Harlan; three daughters, Patricia (Franklin) Jordan of Citrus Heights, CA; Betty (Dennis) Lawrence of Council Bluffs and Bonnie (Tom) Palmer of LeMars; two sons, Lynn (Jackie) Peterson of Jacksonville and Curt Peterson of Citrus Heights, CA; three brothers, Merlyn Peterson of Orangevale, CA; Vernon Peterson of Concord, CA and Bob Peterson of Emporia, KS; one aunt, Sarah Petersen of Kimballton; 12 grandchildren; 25 great grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held May 18, 2001, at the First Baptist Church in Harlan, with Pastor Gundar Lamberts officiating. Casket bearers were Wesley's grandchildren, Kim Olivera, Brenda Jordan, Frank Jordan, Scott Peterson, Tim Peterson, Chris Peterson, Toni Andersen, Gail Blackman, Amy Peterson, Todd Lawrence, Jeff Palmer and Michelle Weets. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

