

## **Russell Durham, 92**

*Aug. 21, 1910 - May 31, 2003*

**ELK HORN** – Russell Earnest Durham was born at Lamoni, Aug. 21, 1910, the son of Caswell Edgar and Minnie Mable Roberts Durham. He grew up in the Decatur and Shelby County areas where he attended school. After his formal schooling, he worked at various jobs. He worked on construction in the Adair area and then worked at the Elk Horn school system as a teacher. He then moved to Illinois and then to California where he operated a gas station with his brothers. He then operated a broadcasting and recording studio. He and his wife, Hilda, started "Boys Oasis" Ranch for troubled and homeless boys in the California desert. They operated the ranch helping troubled and homeless youth for many years. In his later years, he moved back to the Elk Horn-Kimballton area where he operated a grocery store before retiring. His wife, Hilda, was a resident of Salem Lutheran Home during that time before her death. He died May 31, 2003, at the Salem Lutheran Home where he had made his home at age 92 years.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his wife, Hilda; one son, Kent Terrill "Terry" Durham; and two daughters, Sandra Castillo and Janet Huffman. Surviving are one daughter, Donna Roberts of Bull Shoals, AR; one son, Ned Durham of Medford, OR; grandchildren; great grandchildren; and one great great grandchild; one sister, Margaret Snider of Lancaster, CA; one brother, Jesse Durham of Elk Horn; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 7, 2003, at the Elk Horn Baptist Church. Burial of the cremains will be at a later date. Mullen Funeral Home in Atlantic in charge of arrangements.