

James R. Findlay, 76 ✓

Dec. 22, 1920 - Jan. 2, 1997

H/B

HARLAN - James Riley Findlay, son of Harold and Ilo (Dent) Findlay was born Dec. 22, 1920, at the Findlay family farm in Center Township, Shelby County. He attended Wendy Knoll School in Center Township, completing his grade school education at Lincoln Township Center School. After graduating from Harlan High School in 1938, he attended an Aviation Maintenance Training School in Kansas City, MO. After completing this course, he was employed at Pratt and Whitney Engine Corp. in Hartford, CT. He was called home to accompany his grandfather Dent to Colorado, hoping to help his asthma condition, but his condition was too far advanced. He then obtained a position at Curtiss-Wright Corporation in St. Louis, MO.

It was here at Curtiss-Wright where he met Annabel Baldrige. Sept. 26, 1943, he entered the United States Army, serving his country during WW II in the Army Air Corps where he completed his basic, pre-flight and flight training, graduating as a Lieutenant in June of 1945. He was assigned to the Troop Carrier Command, based at Lawrenceville, IL. It was there that he married Annabel, Sept. 8, 1945. After his honorable discharge on Jan. 25, 1946, they returned to the farm in Lincoln Township and engaged in farming first in Lincoln Township, and a few years later they moved to the original family farm in Center Township. This was their home until 1970 when the family moved to the Harrison, AR area for one year. They then returned to Harlan where he was employed by West Central Development Corp., and later by the Iowa Department of Agriculture. Later, after passing his insurance state examination, he worked for Penn Life of Sioux City, and later by the George Howard Agency of Atlantic. He stayed interested in the insurance business until recent years. He was in the Air Force Reserve for several years. He was also a member of the Harlan Jr. Chamber of Commerce, Harlan Chapter of Toastmasters, an active member of the Congregational United Church of Christ, and also a member of the Golden "K" Kiwanis Chapter, the Harlan American Legion, Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 and the Air Force Association. He died Jan. 2, 1997, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 76 years and 11 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold W. and Ilo Dent Findlay. He is survived by his wife, Annabel Findlay of Harlan; his children - Gregory (Monica) Findlay of Wichita Falls, TX; Tom (Susan) Findlay of Harlan, Alan (Alison) Findlay of Duluth, GA and Kimberly (Marc) Roecker of Jefferson; three grandchildren; his brother, Dale Findlay of Mo Valley and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 4, 1997 at Pauley Funeral Home with Rev. C.G. "Gary" Nienkamp officiating. Burial was in the Harlan cemetery with military rites conducted by the Harlan American Legion, Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150. Honorary casket bearers were Lynn Gearhart, Roy Baron, Jack Carmichael and Charles Gearhart. Casket bearers were Ron Mosher, Leonard L. Fiscus, Orv Roecker, Todd D. Larsen, Lee Sunderland and William O. Lewis.