

Okie Folsom, 89

July 14, 1941 - Sept. 27, 2003

FREDERICKSBURG, VA – Okie J. Folsom was born at Anita, Dec. 17, 1913. He attended one room schools in Iowa and Nebraska, and lived on a farm at Bridgewater. He attended high school during the depression and traveled to high school 11 1/2 miles by pony. After his father lost the farm in 1933, he went to Colorado and worked on a horse ranch, breaking horses. In the fall he came to Iowa and shucked corn by hand for an uncle at Shelby. In the spring, he got a job in Harlan working for a dairy. At the same time, he went to school in the evening, to become a photographer and photoengraver. He then worked for the Harlan Tribune, a weekly newspaper. After a short time, he went to work for the Carroll Daily Herald as a photo and engraver.

He married Elvira Farley at Manilla, September 1939. One son was born in December 1940. Elvira died in Norfolk, VA in April 1944. In 1942, with the shortage of photo supplies, Okie moved to Norfolk, VA, to work in defense during the war. He worked for Pet Dairy Products in the ice cream division for 15 years, then moved to Fredericksburg, VA, in 1955 to work for The Farmers Creamery for several years.

He married Irene McWhirt Sept. 4, 1965. She was a nurse. She retired in 1960. Then she started a catering business. They worked together for 24 years in the catering business. In early 1960, Okie got a real estate license and also worked for Buckwalter Investigating Agency. Okie attended additional schooling, bookkeeping 1 and 2 at William and Mary at Williamsburg, VA and real estate classes at RPI in Richmond. He was a member of the Masons #4 at Fredericksburg; 32nd Scottish Rite, Hampton, VA; and Acca Temple Shrine at Richmond, VA; Spotsylvania Lions Club and received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for contribution to charity; real estate appraisal in Charlottesville, VA and classes in solar energy at Germanna Jr. College and law for the Layman MWC of Fredericksburg, VA.

He is survived by his son of Palmer, AK; two grandchildren, Hillary Beth Folsom and Aaron A. Folsom of Anchorage, AK.