

Woodrow "Wutz" Hansen, 86

Aug. 5, 1915 - Sept. 24, 2001

HARLAN – Woodrow Wilson Hansen, son of Chris J. and Dorthea (Frederickson) Hansen, was born Aug. 5, 1915, in Harlan. "Wutz", as he was known, was baptized at the Bethel Baptist Church in Harlan, in May of 1949. He attended school in Harlan with the class of 1934. Wutz's father died when he was 15 years old, and the responsibility to assist in supporting the family fell to the children that were still at home. A few years after his father's death, he started working at Hansen's Garage.

Aug. 26, 1937, he married Elizabeth Robertson at the Dunlap Methodist - Episcopal Church in a double ring ceremony with his brother, Emory and Elizabeth's sister, Laurel. In 1947, Wutz went to work for the Otto C. Hansen Implement. He continued to work for the implement business until Otto died in 1977, after which Wutz purchased the business from the estate. Forced to sell the business after suffering a heart attack, he worked for Joe Moran in his cleaning and drapery business until his retirement in 1982. He attended Bethel Baptist Church prior to becoming a charter member of the First Baptist Church of Harlan. Over the years, he held numerous offices including the building committees, treasurer and trustee. He assisted with the Baptist Youth Fellowship program and was a church bus driver. He was an active member and past president of the Harlan Golden K Kiwanis Club. He was honored as a fireman with the Harlan Fire Department when he retired with over 50 years of service. He died Sept. 24, 2001, at Elm Crest Retirement Community at age 86 years, one month and 18 days. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Fred, Otto, Chet, Emory, Marvin and Harry, and his sisters, Etna Swensen, Alys Peterson and Ruby Jensen. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Hansen of Harlan; sons, Ron Hansen (Vi) of Lincoln, NE; Phillip Hansen (Jill) of Ft. Dodge and Byron Hansen (Nan) of Rockton, IL; seven grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 27, 2001, at the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Gundar Lamberts officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with military rites conducted by the Shelby County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 941 and the American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 of Harlan. Honorary casket bearers were Alvin Conrad, Clarence McDermott, Verne Renze, Wesley Moore, Norman Johannsen, Dallas Havick, William Shannon, Russell Gould, Leonard Payton and Charles Early. Casket bearers were Brad Sorensen, Norman Mathiasen, Myron Sorensen, Dave Outhouse, James Jensen and Leslie Outhouse. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

