

Harlan, Iowa Tribune, Tue. April 16, 1996

Elmo Wellington "Smoke" Richards, 89

Jan. 20, 1907 - March 16, 1996

IRWIN - Elmo Wellington, son of Edwin and Minnie Jenkins Wheeler Richards, was born Jan. 20, 1907 at Irwin. He attended Irwin Schools and graduated with the class of 1926. He was a member of the Irwin High state basketball championship team of 1926. Scoring at least thirty points per game, he held the state individual scoring record from 1926 until 1956. During World War II he served with the United States Navy. He was mechanically inclined and skilled with his hands. He kept busy as a painter and carpenter, and doing other odd jobs for the citizens of Irwin, where he spent most of his life. He attended the Church of Christ in Irwin. As his health began to fail, he moved to the Manilla Manor Nursing Home in the early 1990's. He became ill and was taken to Manning General Hospital where he died March 16, 1996 at age 89 years, one month and 26 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Joe, Wayne and Harold; three half-brothers, Fremont and George Richards and Albert Wheeler; a sister, Edna Carl and three half-sisters, Nellie Richards, Corrine Smith and Clara Madsen. Survivors include nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 18, 1996 at the Ohde Funeral Home, Manilla with Pastor Ted Sieck, Church of Christ, Irwin officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Irwin. Military honors were by the American Legion Post 614, Irwin. Casket bearers were Gene Richards, Don Armentrout, Andy Rasmussen, Terry Richards, Dan Thompson and Vern Miller.