

Joseph O. Ridgley, 80

IRWIN – Joseph Orin Ridgley, the son of Ora and Fanny Riley Ridgley was born on June 3, 1908 at Vincennes, IN. He died Sept. 28, 1988 at Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan at age 80 years, following a lingering illness.

At an early age, he came to the Vail area with his family, where he attended rural schools. Nov. 15, 1933 he married Mildred Fielder of Vincennes, IN at Olney, IL. Two daughters and two sons were born to this union. After marriage they farmed in the Vail and Denison area for several years; moving to Kalispell, MT in 1957, where he was a cattle rancher and later owned a Home-Lite chain saw business. After retiring in 1972, they moved to Spokane, WA, returning to Irwin in 1982 where they continued to make their home. He loved the soil; enjoying his garden and flowers while health permitted. He was a member of the Church of Christ in Irwin; the Diamond Masonic Lodge No. 422 in Vail; the Olive Branch Chapter of Eastern Star No. 205 in Vail; the Abu Bekr Shrine in Sioux City and the El Katif Shrine in Spokane, WA.

Preceding him in death were his parents and two sisters, Edith O'Brien and Ruth Emge. Survivors include his wife Mildred; two daughters, Jean (Mrs Don) Ferry of Irwin and Carol Richards of Scottsdale, AZ; two sons, Gail Ridgley of Denison and E.E. Ridgley of Washington D.C., 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Esther Santage of Cedar Rapids and Ferne (Mrs Virgil) Hast of Dow City; one brother, Ray Ridgley of Sun City, AZ; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Masonic services were held Friday, Sept. 30 and funeral services were held Saturday, Oct. 1, 1988 at the Huebner Funeral Home in Denison. Pastor Jeffrey Hicks officiated at the services with burial at the Oakland cemetery in Denison. Honorary pall bearers were Floyd Adams, Leslie Crane, Clair Abbott, Loren North, Aaron Brockelsby, Ralph Kral, Howard Mickelson, Lee Ferry, Leonard Crouch and Tim Ridgley. Pall bearers were Arthur Adams, Dean Hast, Mike Holloway, Lynn Hast, Rod Ferry and David Hast. Funeral arrangements were made by Huebner Funeral Home in Denison.