

Alvin P. Rushenberg, 79

HARLAN – Alvin Peter Rushenberg, the son of Frank and Mary (Ruden) Rushenberg, was born at Harlan May 27, 1909. He attended country school in Shelby County. June 12, 1935, he married Mildred McDowell in Decorah. One son was born to this union. After their marriage, they lived in Kirkman until 1944, when they moved into Harlan.

He began his flying career in 1935. From 1940 to 1943, he instructed in U.S. Army Air Force contract schools in Peru and Wayne, NE. In 1944, he began the first operation of the Harlan Municipal Airport. In addition to flight instruction, he did aerial spraying and was a dealer for Piper Aircraft and Luscombe. In 1945, he began fulfilling the duties of Flight Examiner for private and commercial licenses, and was the flight examiner for over 500 students. In 1950, he became a pilot for Zekan-Robbins Co., and flew in nearly every state east of the Rocky Mountains doing aerial photography. In 1984, he and his brother Lawrence were honored by having the Harlan Municipal Airport renamed Rushenberg Field.

After the death of his wife in 1974, he continued to make his home in Harlan and on Dec. 4, 1986 became a resident of the Baptist Memorial Home. It was there that he died Oct. 23, 1988 at age 79 years, four months and 26 days. He was a member of the OX-5 Club of America and a member of the Silver Wings Fraternity within that organization.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by three sisters, Lena, Lenora and Elizabeth and one brother, Leo. He is survived by his son, Richard of Omaha, NE; two grandchildren; a brother, Lawrence of Omaha; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 26, 1988 at Pauley Funeral Home with Deacon Pat Davitt officiating assisted by Olie Pash. Burial was in Rose Hill cemetery, Kirkman with Olie Pash, Don McCarthy, Gunnar Nielsen, Eugene Hodapp, Bob Rushenberg and Robert H. Paulsen serving as casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.