

## Normal G. Richards, 84

*Nov. 19, 1915 – Feb. 11, 2000*

**IRWIN** – Normal George Richards was born Nov. 19, 1915, to Bertha (Will) and George Richards at Porter, MN. At the age of three he moved with his family to a farm near Irwin. He was baptized at the Church of Christ in Irwin. A graduate of the Irwin High School Class of 1934, he played baseball and basketball while in school. He served in the Army during WW II as a member of the 753 Tank Battalion. Following the service, he returned to Irwin to work with his father in the carpentry trade. He made this trade his livelihood, and even built his own home after he was married. Following retirement, he continued to help with carpentry projects in the Irwin area.

April 21, 1946, he married Helen White in Villisca. To this union two sons were born. He was a lifetime member of the Church of Christ in Irwin, where he served as Deacon and Elder. He was an active member in the Irwin American Legion Austin Earl Hiatt Post No. 614. He died Feb. 11, 2000, at the Manilla Manor at age 84 years, two months and 22 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his infant sister, Margie; grandson, Eric Richards; and daughter-in-law, Cindy Richards. He is survived by his wife, Helen of Irwin; his sons, Craig Richards of Carroll and Kent Richards (Sandi) of Irwin; grandsons, Bret Richards (Jill) of Irwin; Aaron Richards (Brandi) of Alpharetta, GA; Ryan Richards (Kim) of St. Cloud, MN; and Nathan Richards of Carroll; sisters, Arlene (Ed) Barnum of Woodbine and Opal (Jack) Gaskill of Irwin; brother-in-law, Eldon White (Eva) of Maryville, MO; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 14, 2000, at Church of Christ, Irwin, with Pastor Ted Sieck officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery in Irwin. Honorary casket bearers were Randy Birks, Howard Mickelson, Wilbur Wetzel, John L. Steenhusen, Don Ferry and George Steenhusen. Casket bearers were Duane White, Roger Ahrenholtz, Bruce White, Verle Doonan, Lynn Gaskill and Lyle Shepard. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.