



Robert W. Sorensen, 68

Jan. 6, 1927 - March 7, 1995

Harlan - Robert William Sorensen, son of John and Marie (Siemssen) Sorensen was born Jan. 6, 1927 near Prairie Rose Lake in Shelby County. At the age of two years, he moved with his family to a farm near Guthrie Center. He attended country school near there, and in 1935 the family then moved to a farm east of Harlan where he attended Rabbit Hollow School. After school he helped on the family farm. Dec. 20, 1944, he entered the United States Navy, serving his country during W.W.II as an Electrician's Mate on a Patrol Craft Sub Chaser and served for one year in the South Pacific. After his honorable discharge July 6, 1946, he returned to Harlan.

Jan. 12, 1947, he married JoAnn Christensen at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan. Three sons were born to this union. After their marriage, they made their home in Harlan where he worked in oil stations, portable grinders, tractor repair and auto repair shops. Oct. 1965 he purchased Peck's

Spark Shop and changed the name to Bob's Spark and Brake in 1970 when he purchased the Paulsen Building north of the square. In July of 1972, Bob and JoAnn opened a photography studio in their home. Jan. 1, 1989 he sold his shop and business to Joe Sondag and took some trips to visit family and to CA. After the death of JoAnn June 10, 1992 he continued to reside in his home in Harlan. He died March 7, 1995 at the Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 68 years, two months and one day. He was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan and worked in the Boy Scouts movement in the Immanuel Lutheran Church for 17 years from Cub Master to Explorer Scout Advisor. He was also a member of the Shelby County V.F.W., Post #941, the American Legion, Helmer Reyelt Post #150, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 267, all of Harlan. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and trap shooting, and had received some trophies for his shooting. April 1, 1952, he became the official weather observer for Harlan and kept records on the weather since that time for which he received awards for his work.

In addition to his parents, his wife and his son Basil, he was preceded in death by a brother Otto and three sisters, Isabelle Petersen, Carrie Axland and Betty Goodner. He is survived by his sons, Wade (Donna) Sorensen and Eric Sorensen of Harlan; eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and one step-great-grandchild and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 10, 1995 at Immanuel Lutheran Church with Pastor Jon Benson officiating. Military rites were conducted at the Harlan cemetery by the Shelby County V.F.W., Post #941 with Joe Sondag, Jim Schechinger, Edwin Olson, Leo Kleffman, Nels Block, Jr. and Roger Thomsen casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.