

The Life Story of --

Dr. Ralph Joseph Hays, 72

Dr. Ralph Joseph Hays, son of Albert and Frances Hurt Hays, was born June 19, 1902 in Des Moines. He died on May 27, 1975, at Archbishop Bergan Mercy hospital in Omaha, Nebr., at age of 72 years, 11 months and 8 days. Ralph grew to adulthood in Des Moines, where he was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic church and graduated from the Dowling high school. He graduated from the Northern Illinois Optometrist school and then moved to Harlan, 49 years ago, in 1926. Dr. Hays was married to Merrilla Shields on July 26, 1928, at St. Michael's Catholic church in Nashua. After their marriage, Dr. and Mrs Hays made Harlan, their home. Dr. Hays opened an optometry business here and he retired in 1971 after serving the Harlan vicinity as an optometrist for over 40 years. Since moving to Harlan he has been an active member of St. Michael's Catholic Church and he has been a member of the Harlan Council No. 3900, Knights of Columbus.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Merrilla, of Harlan, one brother, Charles E. Hays, of Omaha, Nebr., and one sister, Clara Heintz, of Los Angeles, Calif., also by nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, May 31, 1975, at St. Michael's Catholic church in Harlan, with Rev Anthony J. Palmer as celebrant and Rev. Vincent Waltz as concelebrant. Burial was in the Harlan cemetery, with Raymond Book, Ray Finn, Joe Moran, Dan Buckley, William Tinsley and Richard Burchett serving as pallbearers.