

H. L.

McGavern, 97

Persia - Harry LeRoy McGavern, son of Scott C. and Nellie Heagney McGavern, was born on a farm northwest of Persia on June 3, 1883. He attended Sunny Hillside country school. He farmed with his father until he was 23, then went to Canada for a summer, working with a cousin on a large wheat farm.

He returned in the fall and farmed with his father until March 10, 1909 when he married Susie Pearl Funk in Co. Bluffs.

Three children were born to this union. After their marriage they farmed near Persia until 1947, when they moved into town. After his wife's death on Oct. 16, 1953 he continued to live in his own home until 1974 when he moved into the Senior Citizens Apt. house in Persia. He died at Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan on Saturday, Oct. 11, 1980 at age 97 years, 4 months and 8 days.

He was a member of St. John's Lutheran church in Persia. He served as Worshipful Master of Craftsman Lodge 490 A.F. and A.M. in Persia in 1943-44. Upon its consolidation, he became a member of Agate Chapter 192, Order of the Eastern Star, Neola. He was elected director of the Persia Independent Telephone Co. in the late teens. He was on and off the board three times.

He was elected Washington twp. trustee for a two year term and served that capacity for six years. He was appointed to fill out a one year term of a trustee, who resigned. He also started serving on the election board until 1970.

After the closing of the banks in the early 30's, the community decided by a majority vote, that five directors be elected to organize a new bank. These were J.G. Cave, Bill Harmsen, Ed Gamble, Henry Petersen and Roy McGavern. He was elected to serve for 44 consecutive

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years, until he retired as an honorary member Dec. 12, 1977. He was the oldest living member of the original board, who named the new bank, The Home Savings Bank of Persia. He served on the Town Council for ten years. He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, one brother, Raymond, and two sons, Durwar and Donald. Survivors include his daughter, Gloria Dollen of Persia; one grandson, Duane Dollen of Persia; two granddaughters, Elaine Nelson of Garden City, Kans., and Sharon Howard of Atlantic, 13 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild; one sister, Irene Munsil of Houston, Texas, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Oct 14, 1980 at St. John's Lutheran church in Persia. Burial was in Valley View cemetery. Masonic Lodge services were conducted by the Neola Lodge.