

Gerald B. Petersen, 59

Gerald Bayne Petersen, son of Alex and Olga Larson Petersen, was born in Harlan on Nov. 3, 1919. He attended school and grew to adulthood in Harlan. After graduating from the Harlan high school in 1938, he continued to live in Harlan until enlisting in the Army Air Corp on New Year's Eve in 1941. He then served in Germany, Holland, Belgium and France during WW II and was awarded the Purple Heart. After receiving his honorable discharge in 1945, he attended the DePaul University in Chicago and received his degree at the Chicago Art Institute in 1951.

Gerald was employed with many different newspapers throughout various parts of the country including Omaha, Nebr., St. Joseph, Mo., Los Angeles and San Francisco, Calif., before joining the Occidental Chemical Co. as Advertising Director in 1968. On Sept. 20, 1969, he married Audrey Sears in San Francisco, Calif. They made their home in Stockton, Calif., where Gerald continued to work with Occidental.

He was a past member of the Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150, American Legion of Harlan and was a member of the Disabled American Veterans of Calif. He was also a member of the Bay Area Chapter of the National Agra Marketing Assn. Mr Petersen was instrumental in organizing the Mantika, Calif. Park as a public relations program for Occidental Chemical Co. featuring many examples of Calif. flowers and a playground for children, demonstrating the company's concern for ecology. He died at St. Joseph's hospital in Stockton, Calif., on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1979, at age 59 years, three months and 25 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Norton. His survivors include his wife, Audrey of Stockton, Calif.; a son, Donald Abbott of Jonesboro, Ark.; two daughters, Patricia Petersen of southern Calif., and Kae Petersen of Santa Barbara, Calif.; and two granddaughters, by two sisters, Marilyn Christensen of San Diego, Calif. and Shirley Hutt of Hemet, Calif.; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at Pauley Funeral Home in Harlan on Monday, March 5, 1979, with Pastor C. Donald Thrash, pastor of the First Baptist church in Harlan, officiating.

Burial was in the Harlan cemetery, with Phil Phelps, Robert Rold, Edward Stowe, James Findlay, Emmert Mushrush and Dean L. Frederickson serving as casketbearers.

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