

Vernon "Benne" Baker, 88

May 11, 1910 - Sept. 12, 1998 ✓

HARLAN - Vernon Baker, son of John and Gertie (Stoffels) Baker, was born in Harlan, May 11, 1910. He was baptized and confirmed at the Bethel Baptist Church in Harlan. Benne grew up in Harlan, where he attended school through the eighth grade. He had seven brothers and sisters. Benne rode and worked the railroads around the United States, moving Missouri and Minnesota and later returning to Harlan.

Jan. 1, 1946, he married LaFay Grabill at the Methodist Church Parsonage in Omaha, NE. To this union three daughters were born. The family made their home in Harlan where Benne was employed by the Harlan Rendering Plant and later by Oakland Beef Plant and Variety Distributors where he worked as custodian. He was a member at New Testament Baptist Church in Harlan. He died Sept. 12, 1998, at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, at age 88 years, four months and one day.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Sharon King; his brothers, Everett, Harold and Olin "Buck", and his sister, Mabel, and his grandchild, Gary Hansen. Survivors include his wife, LaFay of Harlan; his children, Elizabeth Thomas of Stockton, CA; Ellen Kimball (Robert) of Kirkman; five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren; his sisters, Alta Mae Barnett of Harlan; Dorothy Brensel (Harold) of Harlan; his half sister, Helen Nollen of Independence and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 16, 1998, at Pauley Funeral Home with Pastor Maurice Knudsen of the New Testament Baptist Church officiating. Burial was in Bowman's Grove Cemetery, rural Harlan, with Terry Hansen, John Michael Thomas, Larry Hansen, Robert Kimball, Seth Kimball and Tish Keesling casket bearers.