

Earl Baldwin, 80

April 30, 1926 - May 17, 2006

HARLAN — Earl Francis Baldwin, son of Clarence and Alicia McCabe Baldwin, was born April 30, 1926, in Mondamin. Earl attended Logan schools through the eleventh grade and then entered the United States Navy. He enlisted May 5, 1944 and served his country during World War II. After receiving his honorable discharge May 16, 1946, he returned to southwest Iowa and graduated from Missouri Valley High School with the class of 1947. He was always interested in cars and car repair, so after finishing school, Earl went to work for the Ford Garage in Council Bluffs.

Oct. 22, 1948, Earl married Velma Mae Rasmussen in Logan. To this union three children were born, Dennis, Linda and Jeffrey. They made their home in Missouri Valley until 1954 when they moved to Harlan where Earl was employed as parts manager for the Ford dealership. His loyalty to the Ford trade name existed through several ownership changes and over 34 years. He retired from Orv Rocker Ford in 1988. He was elected to the Harlan City Council in October 1969 and served until December 1973. He also held a membership in Shelby County VFW Post No. 941. Velma Baldwin died at her home, March 6, 1979. After her death, Earl continued to make his home in Harlan.

Sept. 25, 1981, Earl married Shirley Beaman in Harlan, where they continued to make their home. He died at Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, NE May 17, 2006, just 18 days after his 80th birthday.

Earl was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Velma; a brother, Harley Baldwin; and a sister, Vera Squire. Survivors include his wife, Shirley of Harlan; son Dennis (Donna) of Kirkman; daughter, Linda (Roger) Jacobsen of Harlan; son, Jeffrey (Diana) of Austin, TX; stepson, Dan (Penny) Beaman of Atlantic; stepdaughter, Sue Radosti of Sioux City; and stepson, Joe Beaman of Ames; 13 grandchildren; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 22, 2006, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home with Sue Radosti officiating. Military rites were conducted in the Harlan Cemetery in Harlan, by the American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 and the Shelby County VFW Post No. 941. Honorary casket bearers were Elvin "Red" Hansen, Dr. Charles Early, Gerald Anderson, and Byron Jensen. Casket bearers were Jim Auen, Harold Blackwell, Fred Olsen, Bob Ahrenholtz, Vince Jauron and Gary Christiansen.

