

## Joe L. Gettys, 89

**HARLAN** - Joe Lynam Gettys, the son of Frank and Minerva (Lynam) Gettys was born in Des Moines, Dec. 28, 1898. He died at the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan, Dec. 7, 1988 at age 89 years, 11 months and nine days. As a small boy, he moved with his family to Stuart, and in 1915, he graduated from Stuart High School. After graduating from Grinnell College in 1919, he received his Master's Degree from the University of Iowa. He then taught school at Creston, for two years and also coached basketball.

June 15, 1921, he married Clara Sherman at Chester Center. Two sons were born to this union. After their marriage, they moved to Alta, where he was a principal and also coached football and basketball for three years. They then moved to Marathon, where he became Superintendent of Schools. In 1930, he became superintendent at Sibley, until 1940, when they moved to Harlan. In 1946, he became superintendent at Atlantic, for one year before moving to Oskaloosa. He was superintendent there until his retirement in 1967. They remained in Oskaloosa until 1986, when they moved back to Harlan and this has been their home since that time. After his retirement, he was honored to have been the recipient of one of only four "distinguished service awards" given annually by the American Association of School Administrators. Joe and Clara were privileged to have celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary in June of this year. He was a member of St. Paul Congregational United Church of Christ, Oskaloosa, a former member of the Harlan Kiwanis, and a long time member of the Rotary Club.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Joe L., Jr.; a brother, Lloyd, and a sister, Gertrude. He is survived by his wife, Clara of Harlan; a son, Gene of Harlan; seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and other relatives.

Graveside services were held Dec. 10, 1988 at the Chester Center cemetery, Poweshiek County with Rev. Wm. A. Main of St. Paul Congregational United Church of Christ in Oskaloosa officiating. Honorary casket bearers were Tom Gettys, Jock Gettys, John Doonan, Joe L. Gettys, Tom Murtaugh, Charles D. Captain and Gene L. Gettys, Jr. Pauley Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.