

Wendell Lytle, 90

Jan. 7, 1915 - March 13, 2005

HARLAN — Wendell Charles Lytle, son of Jesse Samuel and Elizabeth Caroline Hansen Lytle, was born Jan. 7, 1915, on a farm near Persia in Harrison County. In 1927, at age 12, he moved with his family to a farm southwest of Harlan. He attended country school and graduated from Harlan High School with the class of 1932, after which he helped his dad on the farm and worked for neighbors. In 1935 and 1936, he farmed with his uncle, Henry Lytle, near Persia.

June 2, 1937, Wendell married Virginia Mayne at her parents' home in Harlan, and for the next 24 years, they lived and farmed on four different farms all in Lincoln Township. Wendell was a 4-H leader, a board member of the Farmers Evening School, Brofalfa Club, Shelby County Farm Bureau, Shelby County Fair Association, Nishnabotna Valley REC, and Congregational U.C.C. Church. He earned the Iowa Master Corn Grower Award in 1946. In 1961, he moved to Lake City, where he owned and operated a fertilizer and agriculture lime spreading service. In 1980, he retired and moved back to Harlan. He died March 13, 2005, at Elm Crest Retirement Community at age 90 years, two months and six days.

In addition to his parents, Wendell is preceded in death by four brothers, Dean, Lee, Wayne, and Randall; a sister-in-law, Ruby Lytle; four nephews, J. Lee Lytle, Larry Lytle, Jerry Lytle and Marvis Lytle. He is survived by Virginia, his wife of 67 years; a brother, Harry (Eloise) of Atlantic; three sisters-in-law, Mary "Babe" Lytle and Vivian Lytle, both of Harlan, and Jeanne Lytle of Carroll; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 17, 2005, at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Harlan, with Rev. Donna Ewert officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Jim Bruck, Roger Goodan, Jack Lytle, Bob Lytle, Gaige Lytle, Chris Larsen, Mark Lytle, and Denzil Nelson casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

