

Howard Mickelson, 90

July 10, 1915 - Sept. 2, 2005

HARLAN — Howard Gail Mickelson, son of Carl M. and Mary Ethel (Reynolds) Mickelson, was born July 10, 1915, in rural Irwin. He attended Irwin Consolidated School and graduated in 1932. He then worked as a farmhand until May 8, 1941, when he entered the Army and was a member of the 1759th Combat Engineers. After his discharge in 1946, Howard became a school bus driver and worked at Til McMahon's Garage.

Jan. 8, 1949, Howard married Dolores Beatrice Wiig at the Lutheran parsonage in Irwin. In October, 1949, the couple moved to his parents' farm; they lived there 56 years. Howard joined the Irwin Church of Christ at age 21, and had served as a church elder for many years. Each April, he attended the Kiamichi Mountains Christian Men's Meeting in Oklahoma. In 1976, Howard started the Greenridge Steam and Gas Engine Antique Show at the Mickelson Farm. He had restored a 1915 Case Steam Engine and built a half-scale Rumley Traction Engine. He died Sept. 2, 2005, at the Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan at age 90 years, one month, and 23 days.

Preceding Howard in death were his parents and two brothers, Normal Mickelson and Ralph Mickelson. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Dolores Mickelson of Harlan; one daughter, Mary (Clark) Ahrenholtz of Harlan; one son, Danny Mickelson of Irwin; six grandchildren, Tabitha Ahrenholtz, Camilla Ahrenholtz, Casie (Toby) Muller, Kristopher (Amie) Mickelson, Andrea Mickelson, and Dani Dee Mickelson; one great-grandchild, Dawson Muller; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 5, 2005, at the Irwin Church of Christ with Pastor Tød Sieck officiating. Casket bearers were Kristopher Mickelson, Ken Nielsen, Toby Muller, Jeff Darling, Jerry Nelson, and Sheldon Kallevig. Military rites were provided by the Helmer Reyelt A.L. Post #150 and the Shelby County VFW Post #941. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery in Irwin. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

