

Sterling M. Nelson, 79

Oct. 25, 1917 - Sept. 17, 1997

HARLAN - Sterling Merlene Nelson, son of James Adolph and Mamie Katherine (Thomson) Nelson, was born Oct. 25, 1917, near Fiscus. He was baptized at the Danish Baptist Church in Harlan, and attended country schools in the Cuppy's Grove and Corley area. He grew to adulthood helping his parents farm.

Aug. 2, 1942, he married Audrey Shaw in Harlan. To this union two children were born. They made their home in the Shelby County area where he farmed. He also did a lot of his own carpentry work and was known as both a farmer and a true craftsman. Over the years he began to build things for other people.

He married Marguerite Lee Stillwell Dec. 17, 1970, in Omaha. Since retiring in 1982, they traveled to Texas for some of their winters together. In 1986, they moved into Harlan. He died Sept. 17, 1997, at age 79 years, 10 months and 23 days at Myrtue Memorial Hospital.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Marguerite of Harlan, and two daughters, Rosella (Rev. Thomas) Carpe of Colfax and Mary (Rex) Surber of Searcy, AR; three step-children, Larry Schwartz of Manilla; Carolee (James) Kumm of Lexington, NE and Curtis Schwartz of Ellsworth; his brothers, Sheldon E. Nelson of Harlan; Dale A. Nelson of Woodbine and Lowell A. Nelson of Harlan; ten grandchildren; five great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 20, 1997, at Pauley Funeral Home with Rev. Thomas J. Carpe officiating. Burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery in Irwin, with Virgil Carter, Gene Borkowski, Thomas Fast, Michael Smith, Carl Armentrout and Edmund Piasecki honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Adrian Nelson, James Zimmerman, Clay Lemmon, Steve Borkowski, James L. Nelson and David Borkowski.