

Earl L. Petersen, 79

Nov. 6, 1918 - Jan. 24, 1998

HARLAN - Earl Lester Petersen, son of Hans and Elva (Nelson) Petersen, was born Nov. 6, 1918, at Harlan. He attended Jackson No. 2 School and graduated from Harlan High School in 1937. After graduation from high school, he attended the National School of Aeronautics in Kansas City, MO. Upon graduation he went to work for Cessna Aircraft in Wichita, KS.

Feb. 14, 1942, he married Mary Jo Hoenscheidt in Newton, KS. To this union one son and three daughters were born. After receiving his draft notice in April of 1942, he joined the Navy. He received his boot training at Great Lakes Naval Station and his aircraft mechanics training was at Navy Pier in Chicago. The Navy assigned him to a squadron of PB2Y4's, doing air-sea rescue missions in the Pacific. For numerous missions over enemy territory, he was awarded the Flying Cross and six gold stars. He received his honorable discharge in October 1945. He then returned to Wichita and Cessna until 1951. The family then moved to his home place north of Jacksonville. Besides farming, he worked for Norman Hansen's Garage and Farmers Mutual Telephone Co. during the switch over to dial phone. He worked at Western Iowa Pork for two years and in 1967, he was hired by the Shelby County Road Department. He remained with the Shelby County Road Department until his retirement in 1979. He was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the V.F.W. Post 941. He died Jan. 24, 1998, at Round Rock, TX, at age 79 years, two months and 18 days.



In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Larry; his brother, Virgil, and his granddaughter, Lori. He is survived by his wife, Mary of Jacksonville; his children, Marcia (Tom) Bolton of Tyrone, GA; Anita (Bill) Hebert of Kingston, GA; Debra (Mike) Newkirk of Round Rock, TX; his daughter-in-law, Connie Petersen of Panama City, FL; nine grandchildren; seven great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 28, 1998, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, with Pastor Jean Morse officiating. Military rites were conducted in the Jacksonville Cemetery by the Shelby County V.F.W. Post 941. Casket bearers were Troy Doonan, Steven Ahrenholtz, Monte Hansen, Ricky Rasmussen, Nathan Ahrenholtz and Arlan Christensen. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.