

Joseph Ruth, 72

GUTHRIE CENTER - Joseph Eugene Ruth, son of Daniel Edwin and Laura Giles Ruth was born Oct. 15, 1916 in rural Guthrie county and died Sept. 21, 1989 at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in Reno, NV., at age 72 years, 11 months and 6 days. While he was very young, the family moved from near Stuart in Guthrie county to a farm 12 miles from Audubon. In 1928, the family moved to Adair county four miles rom Greenfield and in 1932 they returned to Audubon county. He attended rural schools in these counties through the 8th grade when he quit to help out on the family farm. July 19, 1941, he married Opal Griswold at the Methodist Parsonage in Maryville, MO. To this unione one daughter was born, Iris Ann.

After he was inducted into the Army Air Corps, Opal traveled with him to Army bases at Geneva, NE., and later to CA. After being honorably discharged in December 1945, they returned to Greenfield, to make their home. He owned and operated an auto body and radiator shop in Greenfield and later worked on construction. The family moved to Perry in 1958 after they bought the Tastee Freeze. They owned this shop for about two years while he worked at John Deere in Ankeny. Later he was co-owner of a front-end alignment shop and purchased the Maidrite Cafe in the mid 1960s.

After constructing a new building at the same site, they sold the Maidrite around 1970. He then purchased the Perry Stationery Store, which was later sold to Perry State Bank so that they might have the location for their new building at the corner of Warford and Second streets. He then worked at Woodward State Hospital School as a mechanic on the state owned vehicles. He retired from the hospital-school when he reached age 62. Because he was such an active person, he began his own carpet cleaning business and worked out of his home. He was a member of the Greenfield Methodist Church when young, and switched his membership to Perry when they moved there. He was a member of the American Legion Post No. 85 in Perry and previously in Greenfield.

Since May 10, 1950, he was a member of the Independent Order of Oddfellows (I.O.O.F) at local levels in Greenfield and Perry. He belonged to all branches of Horeb Lodge No. 408 in Perry and has held every office in the lodge at the local level. At the state level, he was Grand Warden in 1982; Deputy Grand Master in 1983; Grand Master in 1984; Deputy Grand Master again in 1987; and Grand Master for the second time in 1988. He was active in all branches of the I.O.O.F. and was especially fond of "degree" work. He did the "funeral charge" at funerals by heart. In 1987, he was awarded the Decoration of Chivalry for outstanding service to both his lodge and community. One of the many honors bestowed upon him was being able to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier both years that he was Grand Master. Oddfellows are the only lodge permitted to do so. At the time of his death, he was attending a Sovereign Grand Lodge Convention as a Sovereign Grand Representative.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Roy Ruth in 1978. He is survived by his wife, Opal; daughter, Iris Ann (Bill) Coffin of Perry; four brothers, Howard Ruth of Harlan; Dale Ruth of Madison, MN.; Harry Ruth of Perry; Dale Ruth of Pollock Pines, CA.; four sisters, Pearl Coleman of Chadwick, MO.; Gladys Buttjer of Osceola; Betty Hill of Colorado Springs, CO.; Ellen Campbell of Guthrie Center; nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

A memorial has been established for the I.O.O.F. Educational Foundation and may be left at Hastings Funeral Home in Perry. Funeral services were held Sept. 26, 1989 at First United Methodist Church in Perry. Graveside services were at Greenfield cemetery.