

Willis Towne, 76 ✓

Feb. 16, 1927 - April 19, 2003

HARLAN – Willis Glenn Towne, the son of Salem LeRoy and Elizabeth Jane Houser Towne, was born Feb. 16, 1927, in Woodbine. He attended Woodbine Schools and was a member of the graduating class of 1946 from Woodbine High School. Feb. 13, 1945, he enlisted in the United States Navy as an Apprentice Seaman. He was honorably discharged Dec. 4, 1946, from the United States Naval Hospital in Illinois.

June 25, 1950, Willis married Doris Ardell Brynjulson at the Lutheran Church in Elk Horn. Two children were born to this union, Randy and Bill. Willis worked for the Harlan Newspaper as a print shop foreman for 44 years, retiring in 1992. He was also a 50 year member of the Harlan American Legion, Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150. He was active in Scouts as a Scout leader and he sang in the church choir. He was an active member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, and also belonged to the Nishna Valley Rock Club in Atlantic, for many years. He died April 19, 2003, at his home in Harlan, at age 76 years, two months and three days.

In addition to his parents, Willis was preceded in death by his brothers and sisters, Raymond Towne, Robert Towne, Alta Callis, Velma Carlile, Ida Pithan, Vera Powley, Lila Walker and Mary Walker. Survivors include his wife, Doris Towne of Harlan; his sons, Randy Towne (Martha) of Lafayette, CO and Bill Towne (Beth) of Council Bluffs; one grandchild, Nathan Towne; his sister, Doris Waite of Missouri Valley; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 23, 2003, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, with Pastor Heather Ploen officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Charles and Esther Gearhart, Shirley and Arnold Knudtson and FM "Pete" and Dorothy Petersen honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Gary Towne, Richard Brynjulson, Jerome Holter, Curtis Brynjulson, Dwayne Walker, David Brynjulson, Charles Waite and Leonard Pithan. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

