

Friday, January 26, 2001 Harlan News-Advertiser Harlan, Ia.

Delbert E. Will, 79

Oct. 11, 1921 - Jan. 15, 2001

IRWIN — Delbert Earnest Will was born on Oct. 11, 1921, to Evelyn (Guss) and Earnest Fredrick Will at Irwin, the eldest of five children. A lifelong member of the Church of Christ in Irwin, he was baptized in 1938. He was a member of the Irwin Community High School graduating class of 1941. In October 1942 he entered the United States Army. During World War II, he was assigned to a prisoner of war camp in Iowa, serving as a prison guard. Following his honorable discharge in 1944, he returned to Irwin and began farming east of town. He continued to farm until his retirement in 1986.



In 1990, he married Gertrude "Trudy" Leshner Cross. They resided on the farm until 1997 when they moved to Irwin. In addition to his membership at the Irwin Church of Christ, he was an active member of Masonic Lodge No. 444, AF & AM of Irwin and the American Legion Austin Earl Hiatt Post No. 614 of Irwin, where he was serving as Post Commander at the time of his death. He died Jan. 15, 2001, at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, at age 79 years, three months and four days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Carolyn Kay Batterson. He is survived by his wife, Gertrude Will of Irwin; stepsons, Thomas Cross (Rebecca) of Canton, MI and Randal Cross of Waterloo; stepdaughter, Kathryn (Dennis) Morris of New Virginia; brother, Marvin Will (Audra) of Hemet, CA; sisters, Grace Malcolm of Manning and Bernyce (Marvin) Gaer of Manning; brother-in-law, Melvin Leshner (Lois) of Clarion; sisters-in-law, Beulah Leshner of Marion and Carol Leshner of Eagle Grove; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 19, 2001, at the Church of Christ in Irwin, with Rev. Ted Sieck officiating. Military rites were conducted in the Oak Hill Cemetery by American Legion Austin Earl Hiatt Post No. 614 of Irwin, with Cy Monson, Rae Murray, Eric Monson, Wilber Wetzel and the Irwin Country Store coffee drinkers honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Verle Doonan, Walter Murray, Jim Summers, Jerry Summers, Donald Wetzel and Junior Murray. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.