



## Clarence Bittle, 101

March 12, 1894 - Nov. 6, 1995

**Harlan** - Clarence Eldon Bittle was born March 12, 1894, son of John W. and Elizabeth Bare Bittle, on a farm west of Harlan. He attended Harlan Public Schools. While still in his teens, he worked for Greely Baker designing and building an airplane in 1911. He patented three inventions during his lifetime including a gopher trap when he was but fourteen years old. He was employed at the Deen Loom Factory and later worked for the Nelson Foundry, both in Harlan, before he enlisted during the First World War Dec. 3, 1917. He was a sergeant with the 826th Aerosquadron serving in both England and France. After World War I, he worked for the

Hulsebus Garage until Dale Eschelmann and he built their own auto repair shop in 1932, which he continued to operate until he retired. He joined the Harlan Fire Department in 1916 and was a member for fifteen years. He was a member of the Harlan City Council, the Odd Fellows, Masonic Blue Lodge, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Harlan United Methodist Church and later the Shelby United Methodist Church.

He married Alice McKeown June 17, 1925 and they resided in Harlan until 1973 when they moved to Shelby. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1975. He moved to the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan September, 1988, and it was there that he died Nov. 6, 1995 at age 101 years, seven months and 25 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Alice; his three sisters, Irma Bittle, Elsie Olson and Mildred Shepard and an infant brother, LeRoy. He is survived by three daughters; Alice Jean (Lawrence) Dittmer of Shelby; Donna Farrell of Shelby and Patricia (Richard) Gorton of San Diego, CA. In addition, there are four grandsons and three granddaughters, eleven great-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Nov. 9, 1995 at Pauley Funeral Home in Harlan with Pastor Walt Bernard of the Shelby United Methodist Church officiating. Military rites were conducted in the Harlan Cemetery by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #941 of Harlan. Casket bearers were Tim Dittmer, Myron Halverson, Don Buboltz, John Gorton, David Dittmer and Scott Peters.