

## Robert C. Booth, 81

Nov. 17, 1916 - Jan. 27, 1998

**HARLAN** - Robert Charles Booth, son of Nathaniel Phillips and Martha Alice (Pierce) Booth, was born Nov. 17, 1916, at Harlan. He attended Harlan Public Schools and graduated from Harlan High School in 1934. He then attended Iowa University and Iowa State University.

Oct. 18, 1941, he married Mary Louise Harrison in Westfield, NJ. Four children were born to this union. Bob established R.C. Booth Enterprises, a map publishing firm that covered six states, from 1937 until 1941. He then became an Independent Distributor Account Manager in the advertising department for General Electric Company in Schenectady, NY from 1941 until 1943. He entered the United States Army at Albany, NY in July of 1943, where he served with the Maintenance Unit 9, Signal Corps until his honorable discharge in 1946. Returning to Harlan, he re-established R.C. Booth Enterprises map publishing in 1946.

Bob's community service is extensive. He was a candidate for mayor of Harlan in 1948, chairperson of Harlan Planning Commission from 1949 to 1953, served as Seventh District Congressional Committee Member from 1948 to 1949, president of the Harlan Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1953, served on the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce from 1955 until 1957 where he was president in 1957, a member of the Board of Directors for the Harlan Golf and Country Club from 1950 until 1955 where he was president from 1952 until 1955, the Board of Directors for the Zoning Commission from 1954 until 1962, Board of Directors of the Harlan Public Library from 1955 to 1959. He was also the chairman of the first Community Chest Drive in 1957, and he was named "Man of the Year" by the town of Harlan in 1957. During his term, 1961 to 1967, Bob was the first chairman of the Board of the reorganized Harlan Municipal Utilities, he was appointed by the mayor to consolidate three utilities. In addition to these affiliations, he was also a member of the Board of Directors of the American Public Gas Association from 1963 until 1965, a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, 32nd degree Masons, Shriners, and the Congregational Church. He announced Harlan High School track for 17 years. Bob would also greet Harlan newcomers along with Maxine Thielen. He attended the International Cartography Exposition in Lubeck, Germany in 1958 with Randall McNally and Hammond Map Company. He died Jan. 27, 1998, in Harlan, at age 81 years, two months and 10 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Nathan. Survivors include his wife, Mary Lou of Harlan; his children, Linda (Gailyn) Larsen of York, PA; Nate (Dawn) Booth of Encinitas, CA; Robert (Connie) Booth of Boone; Randall (Mary Lea) Booth of Westphalia; 11 grandchildren; one brother, George Booth of Boulder, CO, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 29, 1998, at Pauley Funeral Home with Rev. C.G. "Gary" Nienkamp of the Congregational United Church of Christ officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Nate P. Booth, Gailyn L. Larsen, John H. Booth, Nate P. Booth, Randall C. Booth and Jeffrey R. Larsen casket bearers.

