

Weldon Louis Gearhart, Sr., 83 ✓

Oct. 29, 1917 - Aug. 31, 2001

HARLAN – W.L. Pat Gearhart, Sr., son of Harry Lemman and Flora Esther (Figg) Gearhart, was born Oct. 29, 1917, in Omaha, NE. Pat attended grade school and high school in Omaha, before moving to Malvern, with his family where he graduated from Malvern High School.

Pat married Ethel Storey Oct. 14, 1938, in Maryville, MO. To this union, 11 children were born. After their marriage, they lived in Omaha, NE, while he attended Creighton University. The couple moved to Harlan in 1955, where Pat started the Gearhart Lumber Company. He owned and operated the lumber company until his retirement in 1981. Pat died Aug. 31, 2001, at his home at age 83 years, 10 months and two days.

In addition to his parents, Weldon was preceded in death by his wife, Ethel, May 11, 2000. Survivors include his children, Patsy Clay of Pasadena, CA; Metta (Jim) Korte of St. Louis, MO; Harry Gearhart (Sandy) of Stillwater, OK; Delene (John) Holt of West Palm Beach, FL; Mary (Dennis) Hilger of Creston; Susie (David) Knudsen of Kenai, AK; Sally Gearhart of Walnut Creek, CA; Margaret (John) Kalal of Modesto, CA; Kathleen (Larry) Rizzo of Kansas City, MO; Weldon Gearhart, Jr. (Kristl) of Lee's Summit, MO; Lois (Tom) McElderry of Council Bluffs; 25 grandchildren; 19 great grandchildren; his sisters, Dorothy Johnson and Lois Wohlner, and his brother, Howard Gearhart, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 4, 2001, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Harlan, with Rev. Canon Glenn Rankin officiating. Burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Omaha, NE, with Jerry Lapke, Jerry Chamberlain, Bill Boyle, Russ Chamberlain, Randy Chamberlain, Don Chamberlain, Pat's grandchildren and Pat's son-in-law honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Steve Clay, Weldon Louis Gearhart, Jr., Reed Clay, Pat Gearhart, Harry Lemman Gearhart II, John Gearhart, Ben Buttry, Adam Knudsen, William Buttry and Mark Knudsen. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.