

Leslie Lawrence, 82

March 10, 1918 – Sept. 25, 2000

HARLAN – Leslie Pershing Lawrence was born March 10, 1918, on a farm 2 1/2 miles north of Portsmouth, son of George and Pearl Legan Lawrence. He was one of five sons. He attended school in Portsmouth and Shelby, and graduated from the Shelby Consolidated Schools. Later in life he attended an Extension of Iowa State University at Denison, for two years.

Sept. 16, 1940, Lawrence and Frances Davis were married in Wibaux, MT. They moved to his grandparents' farm two miles north of Portsmouth. Their two sons and two daughters were born on this family farm. He was a member of the Methodist Church in Logan and served on the church board. He was a Charter member of the Harrison County Extension Service, the Agriculture Stabilization Service and the Soil Conservation Service. He bought a farm on the south edge of Logan and was employed by the Logan-Magnolia School District. When the family lived on the farm near Logan they were chosen by the WOW TV and the Harrison County Extension Service as the Farm Family of the Year. He was also a Farm Bureau Policy Board member and a member of both the Harrison and Shelby County School Boards. Later the family moved to Traer, where he operated a drive-in ice cream business and also sold insurance for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company. After living in the Traer Community for six years, he became employed by the Collegiate United Methodist Church and Youth Center in Ames for another six years. He was later employed by Iowa State University in the maintenance department where he installed flooring in student housing. When he retired, they moved to Southlake, TX, to be near their daughter, Laraine. When retirement wasn't satisfying, he went to work in the maintenance department of the Grapevine-Colleyville, TX Independent School District for the next 10 years. He finally retired at age 70 and moved back to Elkader, to be near his son, Edward. Leslie and Francis later moved to Elm Crest Retirement Home in Harlan. He died Sept. 25, 2000, in Harlan at age 82.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Milton. He is survived by his wife, Frances of Harlan; his sons, Edward Lawrence (Kris) of McGregor and Roger Lawrence (Sandi) of Ames; his daughters, Laraine (Bernie) Ely of Santa Fe, NM and Linda (Marc) Powell of Traer; his brothers, Ronald Lawrence (Marilyn) of Gillette, WY; Russell (Joyce) of Council Bluffs and Jesse (Mary) also of Council Bluffs; 11 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Memorial services were held Sept. 27, 2000, at the Knutson Funeral Home with Gayle Wilcox officiating.