

Harlan, Iowa News Advertiser, Friday October 24, 2003, page 14-A

## **Normal Mickelson, 94**

*Dec. 12, 1908 - Sept. 24, 2003*

**HAMLIN** – Normal Homer Mickelson, the son of Carl and Mary Ethel Reynolds Mickelson, was born Dec. 12, 1908, at Kirkman. He attended country school and then graduated from Irwin High School.

Jan. 12, 1935, he married Vivian Gaer. They farmed near the Irwin area. One daughter, Donella, was born to this union. Normal continued to farm in the Irwin area.

Dec. 26, 1946, he married Irena Paxton at the Methodist Church Chapel in Harlan. They moved to his family farm near Irwin which they operated until 1959. Later they purchased a farm near Fiscus, which they operated until 1969 and eventually they moved to their farm west of Hamlin, until 1972 when they retired to their present home near Hamlin. Irena died Feb. 16, 1993. Normal continued to live in his home in Hamlin until the time of his death. Normal was known for his love of horses. He was a member of the Audubon County Saddle Club and a lifetime member of the American Quarter Horse Association and a founding father of the Shelby County Saddle Club. With the help of special friends, Zac Wiges, Alan Riesenberg, Greg Drake, Brett Rold and Brian Andersen, Normal continued an active life. His work with horses including riding in parades, cutting cattle, training teams and showing horses. He died Sept. 24, 2003, at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, at age 94 years.

Preceding him in death in addition to his wife, Irena, were his parents; his daughter, Donella Ross; his grandson, Jason; and his brother, Ralph Mickelson. Survivors include his grandchildren, Rick (Joan) Hart of Dallas, TX; Brenda Eckerman of Carroll; Tim Hart of Deltona, FL; Jill Schultes of Carroll; his great grandchildren, Julia Hart of Dallas, TX; Kenidy Eckerman and Cassidy Eckerman of Carroll; Taylor Hart of Deltona, FL; Rebecca Schultes and Jacob Schultes of Carroll; his brother, Howard (Dolores) Mickelson of Irwin; his niece, Mary (Clark) Ahrenholtz; his nephew, Danny Mickelson, all of Harlan; and other relatives.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dwayne L. Ferguson Sept. 29, 2003, at the First United Methodist Church in Audubon. Burial was in the Maple Grove Cemetery in Audubon. Casket bearers were Steve Barth, Alan Riesenberg, Kenny Klocke, Brian Andersen, Greg Drake and Brett Rold. Kessler Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.