

Harlan News-Advertiser, Friday, Jan. 24, 2003

## Philip John Phelps, 56

*July 15, 1946 - Jan. 12, 2003*

**TUCUMCARI, NM** – Philip John Phelps, son of Phil and Austa Nielsen Phelps, was born July 15, 1946, in Harlan. He attended school in Harlan, graduating from Harlan High School with the class of 1964. Philip John then attended Luther College in Decorah, where he received his degree in 1968. He then moved to Davenport, where he taught school in the Davenport School System.

In 1969, Phil married Ann Hill in Davenport. Two children were born to this union. After their marriage, they made their home in Davenport, where he continued to teach. 1973 brought a change in profession for Philip. He decided to further his education by attending mortuary college and becoming a funeral director. After graduation from mortuary school in Atlanta, GA in 1975, Philip and Ann returned to make their home in Harlan where he worked for Pauley Funeral Home. After a short time, he decided he liked teaching better than funeral service so the family moved back to Davenport where he resumed his teaching career and also sold real estate. In 1981, he moved to Santa Fe, NM, where he accepted a position with Sante Fe College as a recruiter of students. He also operated a janitorial service in Sante Fe for over 10 years.

Delores Lopez and Philip Phelps were married in 1981, and one son was born to this union. His interest in people then led him to pursue work in social services. His position as director of social services in Horizon Nursing Home led him to study for his Nursing Home Administrators License. After receiving his license, he accepted the position of Administrator of Van Ark Care Center in Tucumcari, NM, in 1998. He died at the University of New Mexico Hospital in Albuquerque, Jan. 12, 2003, at age 56 years, five months and 28 days.

He was preceded in death by his father, Philip Phelps, Oct. 14, 1996; and is survived by his children, Stephanie (Jeff) Lindmark of Bettendorf; Darren Phelps of Rock Island, IL; and Greg Phelps of Rock Island, IL; granddaughter, Elizabeth Lindmark; and grandson, Peyton Lindmark; mother, Austa Phelps of Harlan; and other relatives.

A memorial service was held Jan. 15, 2003, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, with the Revs. Jon Benson and Heather Ploen officiating. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.