

Esch, Lewis

Lewis Clayton Esch, 98, of Glendale, Ariz., and formerly of Pigeon and Caseville, was called home by his Heavenly Father on Sunday, April 2, 2000, following a brief illness. He was born on Dec. 28, 1901, in Centralia, Mo., the second of four sons of the late Daniel C. and Elizabeth (Guengerich) Esch. At age 15, he moved to Pigeon with his parents and three brothers. On Dec. 25, 1924, he was united in marriage to Maggie (Margaret) Wideman in Pigeon. On his 98th birthday, the couple gathered with family and friends to celebrate their 75th anniversary. Mrs. Esch survives him. In 1928, he graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. He practiced for a short time before taking over the family farm at the time of his parents' retirement in 1934. He was a past member of the Michigan Avenue Mennonite Church, Pigeon, where he took an active part, serving as Sunday school teacher, superintendent, board member and elder. After retiring, the Esches began spending the winter in Arizona and made Glencroft Retirement Center in Glendale their permanent home in 1974. He was a member of Sunnyslope Mennonite Church and associate member of Glendale Community Church. Mr. Esch had many interests and spent many hours reading. Along with his daily Bible reading, history and biography were his favorite topics as well as an interest in politics and world events. He enjoyed gardening, playing pool and his favorite board game, Scrabble. Along with his wife, Maggie, Mr. Esch is survived by four children and their spouses: Clayton Esch and his wife, Freda, of Pigeon, Eldora Eicher and her husband, Lloyd, of Littleton, Colo., Dwight Esch and his wife, Ofelia, of Valley Center, Calif., and Maryiln Ludwig and her husband, Jack, of Peoria, Ariz.; six grandsons; one granddaughter; 11 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; a foster sister, Grace Kauffman of Flint; a sister-in-law, Barbara Esch of Glendale, Ariz.; and many nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by four brothers, Jacob, Henry, Paul and an infant child. Interment will take place at 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 5, 2000, at the Resthaven Park Cemetery in Glendale, Ariz. There will be a memorial celebration of his life at 3 p.m. Wednesday in the Glencroft Chapel at Glencroft Retirement Center. Memorials may be made to Glencroft Zion Fund, Glencroft Retirement Community, 8611 North 67th Ave., Glendale, AZ 85302. Cards may be sent to Mrs. Lewis Esch, 8611 North 67th Ave., No. 152, Glendale, AZ 85302. Arrangements were handled by Chapel of the Chimes Mortuary, Glendale, AZ 85302.