

Klinger, Harry

(October 5, 1902 - January 17, 1983)

*Taken from the Th Progress-Advance Wednesday
Jan. 12-Tuesday, Jan. 18, 1983*

Pigeon lost one of its strongest – and longest – boosters Monday, when word was received that former Progress-Advance owner Harry Klinger had died in Florida.

Mr. Klinger, 80, was born Oct. 5, 1902 at Coleman in Midland County to the late George and Anna (Danks) Klinger. The family moved to Pigeon in 1908.

Mr. Klinger began work at the former Pigeon Progress in 1914 as a “Printer’s devil” for 12 cents an hour, he said at Thanksgiving. He was put in charge of sweeping, oiling presses, keeping two stoves going, learning to type cases and learning to run presses. He moved to Ohio in the mid-1920s but came back to work fulltime in April, 1926 until his retirement in 1968 at the age of 66.

In all, he spent more than a half-century working for the newspaper and its successor, The Progress-Advance. He alone had the distinction of working for all five owners starting with George H.A. Shaw through the present.

He is survived by one cousin, Wesley Klinger of Hockledge, Florida and several other relatives. While Mr. Klinger never married, he did have several loves of his life and even bought a ring for one of the girls his cousin Wesley recalls.

He was preceded in death by his father George, mother Anna and sister Bessie. His body has been cremated and committal plans are still being worked out in Florida. The cousins and friends are planning a memorial party in Harry’s honor later this year, when Wesley will bring his remains back to Pigeon.

“Harry didn’t want any flowers,” Wesley recalled Monday night. “Instead of a wake, he’d rather be remembered with the type of parties he often gave and attended. We’ll do that after winter.”

Harry took his first trip to Florida December 12. At his cousin’s urging. “Michigan weather just wasn’t that good for him anymore,” Wesley said via telephone. He suffered from complications of recent illnesses. He had suffered a heart attack



about two years ago. Harry told me. "If I'm not going to get well, I don't want any heroics his cousin recalled. He died early Monday morning.

He was a member of the Pigeons Lions Club and had perfect attendance at meeting for many years. He was a Partner in Thumb Publications in 1949 with Walter Hammel and Norman Curtis and was a longtime local sports booster.

Harry's most memorable event was his membership in Pigeon High School's 1923 State Championship Basketball Team. He often talked of the many games that team played in 24 hours. More recently, he enjoyed nearly all Laker sports events and attended them without fail.

A meticulous speller, he was self-taught in newspaper style writing and editing. He was a great reader and had walls and walls of books at his home in Pigeon. He enjoyed entertaining friends at his hunting cabin.

Memorials should be made to the Pigeon Lions Club or to Scheurer Hospital.