

JACOB DANIEL ESCH

1900 - 1997

Jacob Daniel Esch, 96 of Glendale, Az., passed away April 16 in the Glencroft Care Center in Glendale, near Phoenix.

He was born Oct. 21, 1900 in Centralia, Mo., the oldest son of Daniel and Elisabeth (Guengerich) Esch. His parents moved to Pigeon, Mi., when he was a child. After graduating from Eastern Mennonite School in Harrisonburg, Va., in 1928, he returned to Michigan and married Barbara N. Zehr. He said his happiest days were spent farming in Michigan for the next 23 years.

He moved to Phoenix, Az., with his family, where his wife died in 1955. He moved to Harrisonburg, Va., for 13 years and returned to Arizona to be among the first to move into Glencroft Retirement Community.

Mr. Esch had many interests, including reading about and discussing history, theology, politics and world events. He took pleasure in gardening, walking and caring for his home. He studied the Bible and prayed daily for the needs of his family, the church and the world. He was a charter member of Sunnyslope Mennonite Church, to which he remained deeply committed throughout his life.

He is survived by six children, two sons and daughters-in-law, Keith and Virginia Esch and Clair and Eugenia Esch; four daughters and sons-in-law, Joan and Ira Zook, Barbara and Harold Shisler, Janet Zehr Esch and Con Firmani, Ruth and Robert Crossgrove. He leaves eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren; one brother, Lewis Esch and wife Maggie; a sister-in-law, Barbara Esch, a foster sister, Grace Kauffman and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was conducted Saturday, April 19 at Sunnyslope Mennonite Church, Phoenix, Az. Pastor Dennis Stauffer officiated.

A local memorial service was conducted Saturday, June 7 at Pigeon River Mennonite Church in Pigeon. Interment of cremains was conducted at Pigeon River Mennonite Cemetery.