

## **Briggs, James**

James Elton Briggs, 93, of Bad Axe passed away Wednesday, April 18, 2001, at Huron Memorial Hospital. Mr. Briggs was born June 15, 1907, near Adrian in Sand Creek to the late Wilbert and Elsie (Abbott) Briggs. Jim began working at the local general store at age 18. After graduation from the Sand Creek High School class of 1927, Jim worked as a cost-clerk for Bostwick-Brun, and supplemented his income by "peddling papers". He worked whatever jobs necessary to put food on the table and clothes on his back. Jim attended aviation school in Chicago during the Great Depression. He and a friend built their own successful, all-wooden plane powered by a Model A Ford motor. He owned an electrical store in Adrian for 13 years. Then, Uncle Sam called Jim to duty in the Navy, and he was promoted to chief electrician on a repair ship in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Jim was a plant engineer for 12 years at the Vernors Ginger Ale Co., and a member of the Detroit Society of Engineers. He also worked for the Thos. D. Murphy Co. for 20 years, selling promotional items for businesses, such as pens and calendars. Mr. James Briggs and Miss Carol M. Clark, were united in marriage on May 24, 1944, in San Diego, Calif. Together they owned and operated the Wilson Photography Studios, which became the Briggs Studio, until 1971, when they sold the business. Surviving is his wife, Carol; one daughter, Faye Frye of Adrian; three sons, David Briggs and his wife, Beverly, of Conroe, Texas, Lonny Briggs of Hacinda, Calif., and Dwight Briggs and his special friend Tina Hind of Bad Axe; 11 grandchildren; one step-grandson; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and one sister, Vena Newson of King, N.C. He was preceded in death by one son, James Orval Briggs; one infant granddaughter, Jamie; and two sisters, Edna Hume and Aletha Lamerson. Funeral services will be conducted at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 22, 2001, at the Bad Axe Free Methodist Church, with the Rev. Jerry Sutton officiating. Visitation was from 2 to 9 p.m. Saturday at the MacAlpine Funeral Home in Bad Axe and will be 2 to 3 p.m. today at the church. Memorials may be offered to the family.