

OBITUARIES

Harold 'Brownie' Brown

WORTHINGTON — Harold "Brownie" Edward Brown, 88, of Worthington, died at home on Thursday, April 3. Born at Bagg's Tavern in Amherst on Oct. 17, 1919, he was the son of Fred and Grace Anna (nee Thayer) Brown.

The family moved to Worthington in 1926 and lived on Thayer Hill Road and was raised by his mother and stepfather, Cyrus Bauer. He attended first through eighth grade at Lyceum Hall (now "Hillside Electronics") on Buffington Hill Road and graduated from Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton in 1938. He met Lois Ashe in March of 1946, then he married Lois Ashe in Pittsfield in 1949.

He worked on the construction of Knightville Dam, which was completed in 1940. During World War II, he served in France and Germany with the 20th Armored Division 412th U.S. Army Battalion Maintenance. He returned to civilian life and worked at Tyler Equipment of Springfield as a heavy-equipment mechanic. It was noted that he delivered a road-grader from Longmeadow through Hartford, Conn., and, also, the first delivered hydraulic pay-loader. Then he worked in a sawmill for Rossi (now Berkshire Hardwoods) out of Connecticut. He later worked at General Electric in Pittsfield for over 20 years, retiring in 1982. While there, he briefly worked on the Polaris Missile Project, but primarily worked in the Power Transformer Division.

Besides these professions, he did carpentry construction, building Windemere, their home on Witt Hill Road (the Smiths presently reside there) as well as other buildings in town and in Westfield with Wells Magargal. He was a founding member of the Worthington Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the PRA (Popular Rotorcraft Association).

He and Lois lived over the Corners Grocery in their first years of marriage, then lived in Windemere with their three sons. The Cuban Missile Crisis altered their desire to move to Florida. After this, they provided personal care for Charlie Pray of Elderberry Lane and inherited the home there, where they remained.

Brownie leaves two sons, Ben Brown and Willard Brown and his wife, Kim, of Worthington and daughter-in-law Nancy Norton Brown, four granddaughters, Lillah, Rebecca, Joanna and Aurora; and a brother, George Brown of Tyler, Texas. His wife, Lois, predeceased him in January 2000, and a son, Lyndon Brown, in September 2005.

A memorial celebration will be held at a later date to be announced. Memorial gifts may be made to the Worthington Historical Society. Arrangements have been entrusted to Pease and Gay Funeral Home of Northampton.