

Times Record, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Buford J. Poe

Buford J. Poe, formerly of Fort Smith, died Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2005, at Park Centre in Newton, Iowa.

Buford Poe was born Jan. 27, 1913, to Alfred Caleb Poe and Mary Ethel Park Poe of Waldron. He graduated from Waldron High School with the class of 1929. He followed his sisters and brothers to the University of Arkansas where he received a bachelor of science from the School of Agriculture in 1935. He began working for the Department of Agriculture with the Soil Conservation Service in 1935 in Conway. Buford entered the Navy in 1944, serving in the Pacific Theater until 1945. He returned to the Soil Conservation Service, ending his career in 1974 as the director for 10 counties in northwest Arkansas.

He married Rutha Mouser of Hope in 1937. Three children were born to this couple, William Buford, John Nathan, and Rebecca Anne. Buford and Rutha were members of First United Methodist Church in Fort Smith and dedicated members of the Aldersgate Sunday school class.

Buford was an avid photographer, always taking photos of others. He loved growing roses, attending Razorback football and basketball games and watching the St. Louis Cardinals. Even in his final years, he enjoyed watching his beloved Razorback teams.

In retirement, he spent his best days on his boyhood farm watching his Hereford cattle grow and mature.

Because of declining health, Buford moved to Newton, Iowa, to be near his son John in 2003. Buford is survived by his children, John and spouse, Sylvia of Chariton, Iowa, Rebecca and her spouse, Jim Townsend of Maitland, Fla.; his daughter-in-law, Charlotte Poe of Evans, Ga.; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandsons. He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Rutha; his son Bill Poe; his parents; his sister, Daisy Hamilton; and his brothers, Donald, Sam and Willie Poe.

Funeral service will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, 2005, at Roebuck Chapel of the First United Methodist Church in Fort Smith, with interment at Oak Cemetery under the direction of Edwards Funeral Home of Fort Smith.

Nathan Poe, Evan Poe, Patrick Bowen, grandsons and grandsons-in-law, Brent Doonan and Justin Fredrickson, and grand-nephew Bill Holman will serve as pallbearers.

The family will greet guests at the Narthex of First United Methodist Church one hour before the service.

The family requests that memorial contributions be given to First United Methodist Church, 200 N. 15th St., Fort Smith, AR 72901.