

H-R Dec. 17, 1998

Lester McKay.

James Lester McKay, 79, of Oskaloosa died Saturday, Dec. 12, at University Hospitals in Iowa City.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday at the Gibson Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. Dan Ogata officiating. Casket bearers were Gary and Shawn McKay; Bill, Scott and Brandt Snakenberg; and Brian Wagoner. Graveside military rites were conducted by members of the Keswick American Legion, with burial in Sixteen Cemetery near Thornburg.

He was born Dec. 3, 1919, near Thornburg to George E. and Leona Opal Lester McKay. He graduated from Gibson High School in 1937 and briefly attended the University of Iowa.

Mr. McKay worked for Wemer and Wemer Stockyards as a bookkeeper and truck driver.

He was married to Dorothy Hizey Dec. 24, 1940, in Nashua. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, as an instrument flight instructor and later a fighter pilot, flying P-47s for the

81st Group of the 91st Squadron in the China-Burma-India theater.

In 1946 he joined Wilmer Walsh as a partner in the Gibson Oil Co. and was later a partner in that business with Lester Williams, retiring in 1982. He later was a partner in the 63-80 Oil Co.

He was a member of the Gibson Presbyterian Church, the American Legion and in Masonic circles. He was a former member of the Gibson City Council and had served as a trustee of his church.

Surviving are his wife; one son, Gary of Grinnell; a daughter, Linda Snakenberg of Oskaloosa; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one sister, Beth Ann Sypherd of Cedar Rapids.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, George and Glenn McKay.

Memorials may be made to the Gibson Presbyterian Church or the National Kidney Foundation.