

FRED HUBERT HEATH

In the year 1900 Margaret Virginia Allbright and Sidney Joseph Heath were married and with this union Fred Hubert Heath was born on December 12, 1923. He had one full brother Robert Heath (still living) and one step-brother Roy Roberson and one step-sister Rena Roberson Robinson (both deceased).

He grew up when "times were hard". He was taught, at a very young age, to work for what he wanted and he did. He told how he would sell bags of roasted peanuts for his spending money. He would use that money to buy his clothes, buy bananas and occasionally, for a real treat, go see a movie.

He spent his childhood in a small community near Crockett known as Wesley Chapel. There he rambled, most of the time barefooted, all through the woods. He began hunting and when he was just barely big enough to carry a shotgun.

Hunting and fishing was something he dearly loved and this was a very important part of his life for all his life.

He attended Latexo School and graduated from high school in 1941. Shortly after graduation he went into the Military. It was during World War II and he was sent overseas. He was a Tail Gunner in the Air Force. Once during a mission his plane was shot down. He and his crew members made it out, but the pilot did not. He hid in a hay stack as the Germans were searching in the field for him. He made his way to a Frenchman's house and that family gave him refuge. He narrowly escaped again as he was sent out the back door of the house while the Germans were coming in the front. The Germans chased him and he ran for days and he could hear the dogs on his trail. He survived by milking a cow at night and eating raw potatoes for food.

During this time, he was reported to his family as missing in action. They pretty much had accepted that he would not be coming home and then one day, by the grace of God, he did.

He got a job as an auto mechanic. He married, worked hard, scrimped and saved and purchased a small farm seven miles East of Crockett, in a community known as Jones School House. He worked hard to build up the farm and to purchase cattle. He would work during the day and come home and do his planting and farm work at night. Many nights it would be midnight before he would stop working to eat his supper, then to be up and back at work by 7:00 a.m. Working hard was a way of life for him; because he had worked hard, he was able to retire from his job as a mechanic at an early age. His small ranch would provide their livelihood. He loved his land and cattle and would

sometimes just spend hours watching his cows graze. Mr. Heath had a great fondness for all animals; especially his dogs and horses. He was a member of the American Legion and the V.F.W. Mr. Heath was a past member of the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. He passed from this life on December 30, 2008, 18 days after his 85th birthday and will be missed.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Nelda Marie Salmon Heath, of Crockett; one daughter Fredia Marie Hutcherson and husband Bobby, of Crockett; one granddaughter Tracy Renae Barry and husband Jeff, of Houston; a brother-in-law Winsel Salmon and wife Jan, of Crockett; nieces and nephews.

Memorial Services for Mr. Fred Hubert Heath will be held Saturday, January 10, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the Callaway-Allee Memorial Chapel with Commander Oma Arnold officiating.

**Callaway-Allee Funeral
Home**