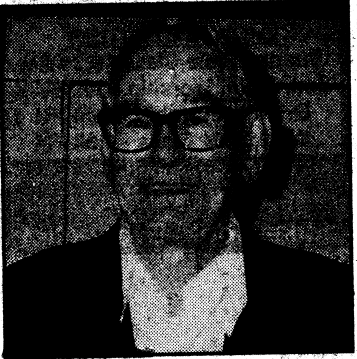


McCarter

Funeral services for Mr. Grover C. Luce, age 94 years, 7 months and 26



days, of Grapeland were held Sunday, December 15, 2002, at 2 p.m. at Ephesus Baptist Church. Officiating at the service were Rev. Jim Bob Gunnels and Rev. A.J. Henderson. Sally Jeffus and Sandra Kerby of Grapeland provided the music. A grandson, Carl McComb read a poem about his grandfather, whom he affectionally called, "Pepa". Burial followed in McCarter Cemetery, under the direction of Bailey and Foster, Grapeland.

Mr. Luce was born April 16, 1908 in Houston County to Thomas Edgar and Mary Ollie Wall Luce, and he passed away Thursday, December 12, 2002 at East Texas Medical Center in Crockett.

Grover C. Luce

He was preceded in death by daughters, Essie Hughes of Houston, WaWease Catron of Grapeland, and son, Thomas Curtis Luce of Grapeland.

He is survived by his wife of 75 years, Mary Margaret Luce; daughter, Faye Nell Tunstall of Palestine, and son, G.C. Luce, Jr. of Grapeland; 15 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, 3 great great grandchildren, and a host of family and close friends.

Pallbearers were Eddie Lee Catron, Michael Hughes, Glen Tunstall, Larry Luce, Billy Joe Luce and Rance Luce.

"Grover was born in the Jones Schoolhouse Community in Houston County and attended school in Ephesus, Latexo and Grapeland, completing through the ninth grade. His parents owned and operated a big sawmill and cut pine trees for all types of building purposes. They moved the sawmill to various parts of the community depending on where the trees and the needs were.

At 16 years of age, Grover went to work for his father at the sawmill. Next he worked in the oil field and later as a farmer and rancher.

His ambition in life was to

grow up, find the girl of his dreams, get married and have a family with lots of kids and grandkids to love. Those dreams began to come true when he met Mary Margaret Allen. Grover was 16 and Mary was 13. Their first date was a year later. They were engaged in August, married on October 15, 1927, and celebrated their 75th anniversary this year.

His interests were fishing, baseball, football and dominoes.

Grandson, Mike Hughes gave a heart felt eulogy about his grandfather, known to all as Pepa.

Grover Luce was the biggest man I ever knew, maybe not physically, but in presence. He had a way about him that drew family and friends to his side because they just wanted to share his company. As a child, Pepa made me feel that I was his favorite grandchild. As I grew older and talked with other grandchildren, I discovered that he had made each of them feel the same way. It was then that I realized what a big heart Pepa had. I will always remember him as a man who loved to tell stories, was quick to laugh and most of all was not afraid to cry."