

Houston County Courier
2/11/1999

ELMER P. WARD

Funeral services for Mr. Elmer P. Ward, age 85, a lifelong resident of Leon County, were held Feb. 8, at the Pierce Beard Fine Arts Center (the High School Auditorium) in Centerville. The Rev. Donald Pruitt and the Rev. Weldon Bell officiated and interment followed in the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery.

Mr. Ward was born April 24, 1913 in Leon County. His parents were William S. and Lucy (Marshall) Ward. All of his life he ranched in Leon County. Also, for many years, he owned and operated a lumberyard in Centerville. He was, even to the end of his life, active in his interest and support of Leon County, its development and progress. He was always a great supporter of the youth, not only of Leon County but also of Madison and Collin Counties, especially in his work with the Youth Livestock Shows in each of these counties. In 1983, the Leon County Livestock Show was dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Ward. Mr. Ward also supported the 4-H programs in Leon and Madison Counties.

Mr. Ward worked to bring R.E.A. to the rural portion of Leon County in the 1930's and 40's. He served on the board of the T.R.V.A. in the 1950's. At one time, he served as mayor of Centerville on "write-in" votes. He was a charter member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Centerville and was still serving as deacon at the time of his death.

Mr. Ward donated the land for the Little League Baseball field and the Leon County Livestock Association Grounds in Centerville. He was a supporter of the construction of the Centerville Community Center. In 1989, Mr. Ward was honored by the Centerville Area Chamber of Commerce as the "Man of the Year". He received the "Older Texan of the Year" Award from the Centerville Home Extension Club. In 1994, although he was not a Mason, he was awarded the "Community Builder Award" by the Centerville Masonic Lodge #129. In 1996, the Chamber of Commerce awarded him the "Pioneer Award".

Mr. Ward received many honors during his life. He also helped many people. Many of those that he helped were unaware of their benefactor. That did not matter to him. He did not seek honor. He sought to do what was right. His standard of "right" was that found in the Word of his God. Anyone who knew "Mr. Elmer" knew that God was first in his life. Mr. Ward died suddenly on Feb. 6. He was much loved and will be missed greatly by his family, his friends and his community. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jewel, who died in 1986. Also preceding him in death were his brothers: J.L. Ward, Seale Ward, Buster Ward and Irvin Ward; his sisters: Ouida Robinson, Vinnie Easterling and Mittye Peters. He is survived by daughters: Barbara Manning and husband Winston of Plano, Peggy Cannon and husband Gene of Plano, Marian Ward of Cedar Park, and Marlice Clayton and husband Eddie of Crockett; a sister, Willie Mae McCormick of Euless; grandchildren Grady, Judi, Lauren, Powell, Angie, Chris and Gary; great-grandchildren Cody, Amy, Chad, Cory, Jordan, Sara, Rebecca, Colby and Kara and a very special friend, Margie Carrigan of Centerville.

The grandchildren and great-grandchildren served as pallbearers and honorary pallbearers.

Mr. Ward's family asks that any memorials to Mr. Ward be made as contributions to the Elmer Ward Scholarship Fund. Send contributions to: The Elmer Ward Scholarship Fund c/o Madisonville State Bank, attn: Wanda Manning, P.O. Box 666, Madisonville, Tx. 77864.

Green-Walters Funeral Home