

## Obituary

### Earl E. Harris, 89

Earl E. Harris, 89, of Blackfoot, passed away Saturday, July 23, 2011 at the Bingham Memorial Hospital.

He was born August 6, 1921 in Roberts, Idaho, the son of Albert I. and Myrtle Roscoe Harris.

Earl attended and graduated from the Roberts School District where he enjoyed playing in sports, especially basketball, and even while young, music was his life and interest. He began playing his mother's violin by "ear" at 4 years old, he was told to "never" touch her mandolin. At 5 years old while his mother was busy outside, he sneaked her mandolin and began to play. Astonished at his young talent when she walked inside and heard what he was capable of, she gave permission for him to take up her mandolin and the family played together with their various instruments. Later in life, he provided much needed entertainment for the elderly at various senior citizen care centers and for the family at gatherings. His music playing led him to also call square dancing in the Roberts area.

Attending an LDS dance he met Merle Elizabeth Berrett and they were married on September 30, 1940 in Lewisville, Idaho. They later had their marriage solemnized in the Idaho Falls Temple. They moved from Roberts to Blackfoot in 1952.

Earl worked as a carpenter and was a supervisor for various companies. He also helped build many homes, church buildings, and businesses in several areas including Blackfoot, Carey, and Sun Valley.

He is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served in various callings. He served many years on the building committee and enjoyed serving on the dance committee. He truly enjoyed his work and could always be found tinkering on buildings and cars even late in his life.

He also loved the outdoors and was an avid fisher and hunter.

He is survived by his sons, Kent (Nancy) Harris of Lizelle, Georgia and Nils (Becky) Harris of Rose, Idaho; daughters, Linda (Mark) Leavitt of Riverside, Idaho, Elizabeth (Neal) Going of Monett, Missouri and Ellen (Keith) Tarpley of Groveland, Idaho; sister Sadie Harrell of Ashton, Idaho; 23 grandchildren; 35 great grandchildren with one on the way; and one great-great grandchild with one on the way.

Earl was preceded in death by his wife; his parents, two brothers, Wallace and Charles.

Family will meet with friends and family on Thursday, July 28, 2011 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Hawker Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 Friday July 29, 2011 at the Blackfoot Stake Center with Bishop Kurt Neff conducting, a viewing for one hour prior to services will also be at the church. Interment will be held 3:00 pm. Friday July 29, 2011 at the Annis Little Butte Cemetery. Condolences can be sent to the family at [condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com](mailto:condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com).

