

Lawrence Elbert Rendleman, known by everyone as Elbert, a hard working man, was born to Melvin and Zelda (Porter) Rendleman on August 18, 1931. He was born in Johnson County east of Goreville, IL but moved to Hardin County at an early age.

He spent most of his life in Hardin County living at various sites around the county. Being a child of a farmer he learned early that work is a very important part of life. He grew up on the farm and was blessed by God with skills of repairing anything. During his early education he would walk about two miles to school. Elbert grew up with two sisters, Joan Harms and Jane Tosh, and a younger brother, Jim. He was the oldest and he took care of the kids. He always loved to kid and play tricks on every body, especially his brother and sisters. Times were hard during the depression and his dad bought a new car but it didnt have a good paint job so his mom decided she could help by getting a quart of paint and a brush and she painted the car. Elbert learned the" value of money that came from hard work.

On February 2, 1952, he and Dorothy Reed went to Paragould, Arkansas and got married. Elbert took a job with the Forest Service on September 13, 1953 sawing and delivering logs and the next month their first son, Michael Dean, was born. One day, Dorothy had to take her clothes to the laundromat. She had taken some of the clothes and baby out to an old truck while she went back in for more clothes. When she came back - the truck, clothes, and Mike were gone. The truck had rolled down the hill into the hog fence. Elbert got a big kick out of that. Later a daughter, Melba Sue, was born. He loved having a baby girl except the part of getting her ready for church on Sunday. He would raise her arms to put on her dress and she would go into fits. Elbert sent her to the doctor with Dorothy to see what was wrong. The doctor told Dorothy there was nothing wrong. After that he would spank her when she threw her fit. After years went by, another child was born to this union and Larry Edward, the whole familys toy, was born. Elbert would give Larry a ride on Mikes motor bike until he would fall asleep hanging over the handlebars.

Elbert worked for the Forest Service but, also came home after work and raised cattle, fixed fences, and baled hay. He loved working on the farm. The Forest Service decided they were going to make him move from the area and he told them he was not leaving. They did convince him to move to Carbondale for a short time attending classes at SIU. But after a year he moved back to the Kaskaskia Experimental Station in Hardin County as the Superintendent. He worked for the Forest Service for 35 years and retired. After retirement he baled hay all over the county. In his late forties he was diagnosed with diabetes. But the late forties - early fifties were not all bad since his first grandchild was born and he was as proud as he could be. Nicole was the first granddaughter, who he labeled Cole. Then came Amanda and he called her AJ. Another' granddaughter came along Brooke who was labeled T. Finally a grandson arrived -Jeremy Elwood and he labeled him Popeye. Elbert had a great love of family. At an early age Elbert started his walk with God going from one General Baptist church to another. He raised his kids at Pleasant Hill where he went faithfully until his sickness prevented regular attendance. The last years were filled with sickness but in spite of that, he never lost his joy, love of family, and love of God.

On a cold (January 21 2008) evening Elbert made his move to a home with no sickness, sorrow, or hard times. He is now out on Gods hills, running cattle, rejoicing with the Lord.