

**Journal Gazette, The (Fort Wayne, IN) - Monday, June 17, 2002**

EARL CHRISTMAN, 88, died Sunday at Jay County Hospital. Born in Portland, he owned and operated Christman Hardware in Pennville for 11 years and worked as a plumber before retiring. He was a World War II Army veteran. Surviving are his wife, Freda; a son, Jerry Thornburg of Bryant; a sister, Josephine Christman of Portland; a brother, Richard of Lexington, Ky.; five grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. Services at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Pennville United Methodist Church, Pennville, with graveside military services following at IOOF Cemetery. Calling at 3 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, Portland. Memorials to Pennville United Methodist Church or Jay County Heart Fund.

**Contributed by Jane Edson**