

Willis Pinkerton Jr.

Willis R. Pinkerton Jr., 75, of Barstow died Monday, Feb. 4, 2002 in Apple Valley. Born Jan. 26, 1927 in Dalhart, Texas, Pinkerton lived in Barstow since February 1938. He graduated from Barstow High School in 1945 where he was student body president in his senior year and received his associates of arts degree from Barstow College. He was a U.S. Army veteran serving in World War II from 1945 to 1946, and was a member of the First Congregational Church for 42 years. Pinkerton worked for the Barstow Fire Protection District for 36 years and was fire chief for the district for 22 years and was the first paid fire chief in Barstow. He began as a volunteer fireman in 1943 as a 16-year-old war-time auxiliary fireman and returned as a volunteer fireman after his military service. Pinkerton entered full-time fire service in July 1951 as a driver-engineer for the Marine Corps supply center, now the Marine Corps Logistics Base, and continued as a volunteer for the Barstow Fire District. He was promoted to crew captain in 1955 at the Marine Base Fire Department and was an assistant chief with the Barstow Volunteer Department. He was appointed the first full-time fire chief of the Barstow Fire District in July 1957. Pinkerton was president of the Barstow Fireman's Service Club in 1948, president of the Barstow Kiwanis Club 1962, Mojave District chairman of Boy Scouts of America 1963, president of San Bernardino County Fire Chiefs Association 1964, president of Citrus Belt Fire Chiefs Association 1966, board of directors California Fire Chiefs Association 1973-1974, state vice president of Western Fire Chiefs Association 1974, member of the State Office of Emergency Service advisory board 1973-1979 and a member of several community social and civic organizations. He was the Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year and Man of the Decade. He liked to stream fish and travel. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Willa May Pinkerton of Barstow; his son, Scott M. Pinkerton of Escondido; two sisters, Mildred Proctor and Marian Shipley, both of Barstow; four granddaughters, Leah Andrade of Topeka, Kan., Kellie Morse of Kingman, Ariz., and Laurie Cowles and Leslie Foster, both of Henderson, Nev.; two grandsons, Scott Pinkerton Jr. of San Diego and Christopher Pinkerton of Apple Valley; and nine great-grandchildren, three nephews and six nieces. He was preceded

in death by his parents, Randall and Stella, a son, Willis III, and his brother, Bob. Visitation is from 4 to 7 p.m. today at Mead Mortuary Chapel, 36930 Irwin Road. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, 2002 at Mountain View Memorial Park, 37067 Irwin Road. Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 1707, Colton, CA 92324-0899 or the Grossman Burn Center, 4929 Van Nuys Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403.

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