



LaValley earns unique distinction

By Valorie Zach

Liberty County Times

Long-time Liberty County resident, Glenn LaValley of Joplin, was honored by the Broken Mountains Genealogical Society during the Diamond Centennial celebration in Chester June 30-July 1-2 1995, commemor-

ating the 100th birthday of the Chester Post Office and 75th birthday of Liberty County.

Glenn, 75, had the distinction of being born nearest to the date of the founding of Liberty County, February 11, 1920 and according to the Genealogical Society, he's the only person born in the county at that time that has continued to reside here.

The son of Lawrence and Ida LaValley, Glenn is the third generation of LaValleys to farm on the homestead just north of Joplin. The first generation was his grandfather, Prosper, and the second generation to farm the land was Glenn's father, Lawrence.

With the exception of three years in the military, Glenn has spent his whole life working the land on the family farm. Married in March 1945, he and his wife Thelma have always lived in town at Joplin and Glenn commuted to the farm. They are the parents of three children Sherill, Randy and Susan and grandparents of nine grandchildren.

Both 1939 graduates of Joplin High School, he and his wife, recently celebrated their 50th anniversary on March 17th. "We've been together for ever," said Thelma, who grew up 11 miles north of Glenn.

When asked why he chose to stay in Liberty County, LaValley responded "Where else is there to go?! It's been my home all my life and we're satisfied." LaValley said living in Liberty County has its advantages over the city. "The weather here is just as good as anywhere," he and his wife agreed. "A lot of it is the people," said Glenn. "Where you know everybody within miles of you and they're your friends and neighbors - where a friend is a friend."

Glenn retired 11 years ago. His son-in-law Jim Coffman, Jr. now farms the LaValley farm. Glenn lists sitting, reading, gardening, fishing and hunting as hobbies.