MERRILL — Albert Edward Babe Furness, 79, of Merrill and Saranac, died Saturday, Sept. 7, 2002 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, Vt.
Born in Merrill on Oct. 23, 1922, he was the son of Albert E. and Grace (Merrill) Furness.
Survivors include his wife, Linda (Ruschmeyer) Furness; a son and daughter-in-law, James and Jan Furness of Alma, Wis.; a daughter and son-in-law, Jacque and Charles Glass of Anoka, Minn.; daughters Michelle Momot of Guilderland, N.Y.; and Merrie Joe and Marcus Price of Zephyrhills, Fla.; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Thelma Furness of Fort Smith, Ark.; a close first cousin, Helen Tavernier of Malone; along with many nieces, nephews, cousins and a lifetime group of friends.
He was predeceased by his parents and two brothers, Edward in 1976, and Lambert in 1989.
Mr. Furness graduated from Lyon Mountain High School in the class of 1940 and attended Franklin Academy in Malone and Plattsburgh State Teachers College. He entered the U.S. Army on Dec. 8, 1942 and was honorably discharged on Dec. 30, 1945, as a second lieutenant. He entered the U.S. Army Reserve, serving at the rank of first lieutenant until his discharge in June of 1955. During his service time, he served in the European Theater, receiving several medals including the Combat Infantry Badge, the U.S. Silver Star, and also the Bronze Silver Star from both France and Germany.
Upon his return home, he was employed by Republic Steel Corp. of Lyon Mountain in the fabrication department; later being transferred to the Silver Bay, MN division, where he became assistant superintendent of the Mechanical Maintenance Department until his retirement in June 1979, with 34 years service.
During his lifetime, Babe was a private pilot and was also active in flying mercy missions (also known as angel flights) until 1975.
He was well-known for his musical talent (was a founding member of The Merry Mels), and enjoyed sharing his music with people of all ages. Returning to the Chateaugay Lake area in 1982, a large part of his life continued to be music.
Mr. Furness was a member of Christ and St. John