

**Francis Clement Converse**, 91, passed away early Tuesday morning at the St. Johnsbury Health & Rehab Center following an extended illness. He was born July 11, 1914, in Passumpsic, Vt., son of the late Wesley and Mabel Fay Converse, who both died when he was young. He lived with Harriet Frost in St. Johnsbury while he attended and graduated from the St. Johnsbury Trade School. Later he attended the Coyne Electrical School in Chicago. After doing electrical work in St. Johnsbury for a while, he went to Hartford, Conn., where he worked for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft. He enlisted in the Coast Guard and served two and a half years as a motor machinist mate on Destroyer Escort 391, making seven crossings of the Atlantic into the Mediterranean. Francis married Marjorie Peake in December of 1944 and they moved to Elmira, N.Y. He worked as an apprentice for a number of years before going to work for Bendix Corp. After retirement from there, he worked in electrical maintenance at Elmira College for seven years. Francis was a lover of nature and the out-of-doors. He took up painting and was a member of the Elmira Art Club for many years. He won several awards and showed his landscapes at the gallery and the fence show in the park. He and his wife became interested in covered bridges, having grown up around them in Vermont, and were active in several Covered Bridge societies for 40 some years. Family and friends have paintings he did of bridges and other landscapes in New York, Vermont, Europe and several other states. He leaves his wife, Marjorie, of 61 years who lives at the Darling Inn; his son, Clay, who serves as a Boy Scout executive in Germany; grandchildren, Karen Kucowski of Wrightstown, N.J., Wendy Converse of Worcester, Mass.; and Andrew Converse, a grad student in Albany, N.Y. Also he leaves a dear sister-in-law, Lilla Watson of Lyndonville; nephews, Fay

Wesley Converse of Exeter, N.H., and his family, Richard Converse of Shelburne, Mass., and his family, Robert Smith of Lyndonville, Vt.; and a niece, Reta Murphy of Lewiston, Idaho. Besides the immediate family, he leaves among his friends, Hank and Sally Messing of Elmira, covered bridge enthusiasts for nearly 50 years. Besides his parents, Francis was predeceased by two brothers, Arthur and Fay; a half sister, Winnie Smith; and a half brother, Fred Converse. A memorial service will be held at the South Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Vt. Covered Bridge Society, 2 Sugar Hill Road, Underhill, VT 05489.