UMB E R S O N  - J. Kenneth Umberson died November 5, 1999 at Valle Norte Caring Center, Albuquerque. Mr. Umberson was born August 14, 1906 in China Springs, McLenn Co., Texas, to J. Frank Umberson and Mattie B. Smith Umberson. He became one of the first registered gemologists in the United States, and operated retail jewelry stores in Truth or Consequences, NM and Midland, TX. He lived in Albuquerque for many years and was a wholesale dealer in turquoise and other Indian jewelry. During WWII, he served in the U.S. Navy. In 1979, he retired from the wholesale dealership and moved to San Angelo, Texas. He returned to Albuquerque in February, 1996. Mr. Umberson was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Clara Furgeson; his second wife, Betty Johnson; three brothers; and two sisters. He is survived by a step-son, Otis Johnson; and by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at St. John's United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 4, 1999 at 1:00 p.m. A graveside service will be held at a later date when his ashes are interred at Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens, San Angelo, Texas.

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