

The Hickman family mourned the loss of a member for the third time in a week Tuesday, when 78-year-old Gerald died in Las Vegas from emphysema.

His death came one week after the death of his sister-in-law, Etta Mae, 74, and six days after the death of his brother, Keith, 83. Etta Mae and Keith Hickman, who had been married since 1977, died in Las Vegas from heart failure.

The Hickman brothers' sister, 80-year-old Ruth Mitchell of Sonora, Calif., has been staying in town with Gerald Hickman's wife, Lenore.

"She's coping quite well," Lenore Hickman, 71, said Wednesday. "She's the last one of her family left."