

Lester Alff, 79

Sept. 11, 1929 - July 3, 2009

AVOCA — Lester Robert Alff (Les) was born on September 11, 1929, on a farm south of Walnut, to Herman and Annie Willms Alff. Lester was baptized and confirmed at the English Lutheran Church in Avoca. He attended country school in Walnut, Sioux City, and Griswold, before starting to farm with his dad. Growing up in those days meant that, if you did farm work, you were expected to do a man's work, and even as a boy, Les did. As he continued to grow into adulthood it became evident that he was good with the land, and his hard work and knowledge began to bring rewards. He started farming on his own with 160 acres of rented land and gradually acquired more land and equipment.



Lester met his wife to be at a dance in Avoca. However, marriage was not to be until he felt he could support his wife and family. He proposed four years later on New Years Eve to Dorothy Osborn and they were married June 1, 1952, at the English Lutheran Church in Avoca. Two children were born to this union, Marcia and Doug. During the years that Lester farmed, he had a natural ability with machinery and built and repaired much of the equipment he used. Farming was more than an occupation for Lester. He was one of the first in the area to grow soybeans and he also planted and raised certified oat seed. Lester enjoyed rebuilding Farmall tractors. He was known to be very particular, not only with his collection of restored tractors, but his every day work equipment was always kept in excellent condition. Most of his restored Farmall tractors were used on the farm and were not merely for looks. Lester had a very special relationship with his father-in-law. "You are more like a son to me than a son-in-law". He thought so much of his father and mother-in-law that he took them along on short trips and to Hawaii to celebrate Les and Dorothy's 25th wedding anniversary. He loved to watch them as they were in awe of the sights they thought they would never see. When All Star Wrestling was popular in Omaha, Lester and his father-in-law never missed a match at the Civic Auditorium. Lester was an avid stock car racing fan. He enjoyed taking his children, grandchildren, nephew and neighbor children to the car races. Lester enjoyed NASCAR racing also, and never missed a race on TV. Lester enjoyed collecting precision IH and JD tractors and equipment that along with various antique cars and pickups, he enjoyed displaying in his curio cabinet. But most of all, Lester enjoyed his granddaughters Tina and Toriya and his great grandchildren, Alexandria, Zander, Katelyn and Gavin. Also he had special memories of his great granddaughters and his nieces sitting on his lap while applying make-up and adorning him with earrings, necklaces and barrettes in his hair. Les and Dorothy retired from the farm near Walnut in 2001 and built a new home in Avoca. It was here that he died on July 3, 2009, having attained the age of seventy-nine years, nine months and twelve days.

In addition to his parents, Lester was preceded in death by his two sisters, Eloise Alff and Arlene Nieman. He is survived by his wife of fifty-seven years, Dorothy Alff of Avoca; his daughter Dr. Marcia Alff D.C. of Avoca and his son Douglas Alff and his wife Eileen of Walnut; two grandchild-

ren and four great grandchildren, nieces and nephews other relatives and many friends.

A funeral service was held on Monday, July 6, 2009 with Pastor Dennis Reich officiating the 2:00 PM service at Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca. Casket bearers were Curtis Osborn, Darwin Nieman, Lelyn Holtz, Mitch Osborn, Terry Nieman, and Darwin Holtz. Interment was held at Grace-land Cemetery in Avoca.

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