

Eugene Bladt, 86

April 20, 1915 – Sept. 28, 2001

AUDUBON – Eugene Jesse Bladt, the son of Nels and Christina Bertelsen Bladt, was born April 20, 1915, in Woodbury County, Sioux City, Leed's Section. Gene was baptized at his parents' home as an infant in Sioux City and confirmed at his parents' home by the Hamlin Lutheran pastor. He attended rural schools near Anita and Hamlin. He then was employed by several farmers. From 1935-1937, he was involved with the CCC Camp in Iron, AR. He then was employed as a truck driver for Sorensen Brothers.

Jan. 25, 1942, he married Laura Jeanne Miller in Fremont, NE. Later in January of 1942, he was inducted into the U.S. Army. During his tour of duty he was a drill sergeant in Texas. He was honorably discharged in November of 1945. He returned to the Audubon area. He was employed by the Iowa Department of Transportation from 1946 until he retired in September of 1979. During retirement they traveled across the U.S.A. They lived in Hamlin until they moved into Audubon in October of 1998. He was an active member of the Hamlin Lutheran Church for many years, serving as Deacon and financial secretary, then transferred to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Audubon in June of 1986. He also served as the school director of Hamlin No. 2. He died Sept. 28, 2001, at the Audubon County Memorial Hospital at age 86 years, five months and eight days.

Preceding him in death were his son, Roger Bladt; his grandson, Baby Boy Joens; his great grandson, David J. Nissen; his parents; his sisters, Doris and Bert Christensen, Mayme and Louis Campbell, Mildred and Otto Rattenborg, and his nephew, Robert Rattenborg. Survivors include his wife, Laura Jeanne Bladt of Audubon; his daughters, Deanna (Dennis) Murra of Buffalo Center and Laurel (Dennis) Joens of Dalhart, TX; his grandchildren, Jennifer and Ryan Villa of Swea City; Brent Nissen and Heather Kunkel of Buffalo Center; Heather Joens Ford of Dalhart, TX; Sarah Nissen of Nashua; Tracy Murra of Buffalo Center and Laura Murra of Minneapolis, MN; his great grandchildren, Caleb Villa of Swea City; Jaycob Murra of Buffalo Center; Mollie Joens and Alex Ford, both of Dalhart; and Katelyn Nissen of Buffalo Center; his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Verrow and Lucille Miller of Persia; Delores and Don Spracklin of Phoenix, AZ and Donna and Dennis McKean of Ralston, NE; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 2, 2001, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Audubon, with Rev. Walter J. Kukkonen officiating. Honorary casket bearers were Mervin Bro, Bernard Pardee, Charles Siemsen, Clifford Thompson and Owen Turk. Casket bearers were James E. Barney, Ronald Buckholdt, Charles Sorensen, Duane Weber, John Weber and David Wolf. Burial was in the Valley View Cemetery in Persia, with military services by Audubon Post No. 120, American Legion, Audubon; Dale Christensen Post No. 4119, Audubon; and military graveside services by Swanger Post, American Legion in Persia.