

Harlan, Iowa, Tribune, Tuesday October 17, 2000,

Valen A. Christensen, 74

Dec. 13, 1925 – Aug. 18, 2000

HARLAN – Valen Andrew Christensen was born Dec. 13, 1925, to Esther B. (Kemp) and Andrew M. Christensen at Harlan. He attended elementary school at Lincoln Country School #8 west of Harlan, and high school in both Harlan and Defiance. He enlisted in the Army Sept. 19, 1944, serving in the Asiatic Pacific Theater. He was wounded on Okinawa May 21, 1945, and was decorated with the Purple Heart. He was honorably discharged April 4, 1946.

Jan. 10, 1949, he married Arlene Mae Knudsen of Harlan at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. To this union five children were born. Following their marriage, the couple lived on their farm near Kirkman. Valen farmed near Defiance and Kirkman, was a school bus driver for the Harlan Community School District and was an employee of Wilson Hybrid Seed Company. He was an active member of the Shelby County Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 941 and the Harlan United Methodist Church. He died Aug. 18, 2000, at Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn, at age 74 years, eight months and five days.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Arlene Christensen of Harlan; his children, Janet Hiatt of Sioux City; Steven Christensen (Sandi) of Hatton, ND; Donna Walker of Sioux City; Bruce Christensen (Tina) of Harlan and Brian Christensen of Vermontville, MI; 12 grandchildren; two great grandchildren; one sister, Elinor (Russ) Juhl of Manilla; one brother, Homer John Christensen of Dothan, AL; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 21, 2000, at Pauley Funeral Home with Rev. Paul Wilcox officiating. Military rites were conducted in the Harlan Cemetery by the Shelby County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 941 and the American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150 of Harlan, with Madison Shea Petrick, Danielle Christensen, Tabitha Christensen, Ashley Christensen, Alison Christensen, Caleb Justin Hiatt, Tami Thompson, Kara Kleveland, Sara Sattizahn and Jason Ludwig honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Casey Petrick, Andrew Christensen, Cindy Hiatt, Douglas Hiatt, Matthew Thompson, Sam Sattizahn and Tyler Christensen. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.