

James B. Ellis, 86

April 22, 1908 - April 9, 1995

Avoca - James Byron Ellis was born in Mansfield, AR April 22, 1908. He was the son of Grover and Willie Simpson Ellis. He was baptized, confirmed and belonged to the Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Co. Bluffs. He was one of three children in the family. His mother died when he was 17 years old.

He married Edna Krohn Feb. 7, 1937 at Wichita, KS in the Methodist Church. They were the parents of two children; a son, James Byron Krohn, who died at birth, and a daughter, Susan Margaret. He attended college at Conway, AR majoring in music and taught music in Poen, AR. After forming his own band, he joined the Little Joe Hart Band in Yankton, SD where they were associated with Lawrence Welk and other bands. He attended the Omaha Art School and was art director at Howard Plastics in Co. Bluffs for many years. He also worked with other commercial art jobs. They just celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary this past February. He died April 9, 1995 at the Methodist Hospital in Omaha at age 86 years, 11 months and 18 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers; Weston and Charles Merrill and a half-brother, Robert Ellis. He is survived by his wife, Edna, his daughter, Susan Exline (Milton) of Iowa City, two grandsons, two sisters-in-law; Ida Ellis of Fayetteville, AR, and Mary Ellis of Arkadelphia, AR, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 14, 1995 at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Avoca with Pastor Duane Anunson officiating. Burial was in the Graceland cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were: Raymond Holtz, Herbert Holtz, Clarence Holtz, Lyle Peters, Allen Peters, Jack Peters, Lawrence Holtz, Delno Holtz, Fred Holtz, Marvin Holtz, Clyde Peters, Vernus Peters, Gilbert Klindt and Patrick Walz. Casket bearers were: Bradley Exline, Mark Dreager, Brad Mehsling, David Exline, Darrell Dreager and Ron Mehsling. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.