

Howard Gaer, 82

Dec. 19, 1920 - Jan. 10, 2003

HARLAN – Howard Glenn Gaer was born Dec. 19, 1920, to Adolph E. and Nancy E. (Rank) Gaer near Redline. He was baptized at the Redline Church of Christ, and attended rural school at Polk No. 9 in Polk Township, Shelby County. He grew to adulthood on the farm near Redline moving with his parents to a farm in Jefferson Township in March 1942. Sept. 28, 1942, he was inducted into the United States Army where he served in the A.A.A. Division in the European Theater during World War II. He was honorably discharged Nov. 20, 1945.

Dec. 16, 1945, he married Elaine Andresen at the Church of Christ in Harlan. Five children were born to this union. After their wedding, he worked as a hired hand for Julius Lensch one year, moving to his parents' farm near Irwin in 1947. They remained on this farm for 42 years. In November of 1987, the couple moved to Harlan. He became a resident of Indian Hills Nursing Home in Council Bluffs, in 1999 where he remained until his death. He died Jan. 10, 2003, at age 82 years and 22 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Elaine, Oct. 23, 1992; daughter, Kira Gaer, Oct. 6, 1993; son, Dale Gaer, June 8, 1995; and brother, Lester Gaer. He is survived by his children, Merlyn Gaer of Nixa, MO; Carolyn (Gregg) Schneider of Omaha, NE; Glenda (Todd) Sliger of Council Bluffs; seven grandchildren; one grandchild; sisters, Leona Petersen of Harlan and Dorothy Zaiger of Audubon; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 13, 2003, at Pauley Funeral Home with Minister Roy North officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Irwin, with Tom Gaer, Eugene Rasmussen, Gregg Gaer, Phil Darringer, Daryl Christensen and Phil Daringer, Jr. casket bearers.

