

Raymond E. Gardner, 53

Sept. 17, 1947 - Oct. 22, 2000

HARLAN - Raymond Earl Gardner was born Sept. 17, 1947, in Des Moines, to Marjorie H. (Gifford) and David E. Gardner. He was baptized at the Mingo Methodist Church in Mingo, and confirmed at the Methodist Church in Colfax. Growing to adulthood on farms in the Colfax-Mingo area, he attended school in Colfax graduating in 1966. Following graduation, he attended Des Moines Area Community College, graduating with a degree in Agri-Business.

Jan. 15, 1972, Ray married Deborah Dell Stanley in Colfax. To this union two children were born. Following their wedding, he was employed as a farm manager for the Iowa Department of Corrections. The couple then farmed in the Exira area for several years. During this time, Ray was the auctioneer for Gardner Auctioneering in Exira. In 1985, they moved to Harlan. During the following 15 years, Ray was employed at Jim's Meat Market, Larsen Beef, KNOD Radio, The Library Restaurant, HyVee Food Store and most recently, at Variety Distributors. He volunteered his time for many years umpiring Little League baseball. Ray died Oct. 22, 2000, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 53 years, one month and five days.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his brother, Richard Gardner. He is survived by his wife, Deborah Gardner of Harlan; his children, Dawn Christine Gardner of Sioux Falls, SD and Deric Sean Gardner of Omaha; his mother, Marjorie Gardner of Colfax; sisters, Janet (John) Hinkebein of Manchester, MO and Dorothy (Richard) Womeldorff of Stewartville, MN; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at Pauley Funeral Home with Rev. Paul Wilcox officiating. Burial was at the Harlan Cemetery with Jeff Quist, Brian "Snowy" Peterson, Jamie Quist, Richard Petersen and Jesse Petersen honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Dale Fink, Michael Hinkebein, Brad Fink, David Fink, Donald Hinkebein, Troy Fink, Tom Stanley, David Hinkebein, Ken Stanley, Corey Stanley, Don Womeldorff, Bill Stanley, Shawn Stanley, Dan Womeldorff, Steven Stanley and Brian Stanley.

