

Elmer C. Jensen, 73

Oct. 29, 1926 - April 15, 2000

SHELBY – Elmer Christian Jensen was born Oct. 29, 1926, to Nels and Kathrine (Nielsen-Hjornet) Jensen, on a farm west and south of Corley. He was the second oldest in the family of six children. He attended the Fairview #8 Country School near Avoca. After his schooling Elmer worked as a farm hand and later at a blacksmith shop in Avoca. He entered the Navy Feb. 3, 1948. He was honorably discharged Jan. 22, 1952, at San Diego.

April 8, 1951, Elmer and Frances Maxine (Jensen) were married at the Lutheran Church in Harlan. To this union, five children were born. They lived in San Diego, from September of 1951 until his discharge in January 1952. They returned to Iowa where Elmer started working for Glen Best who was a seed corn grower and livestock producer near Tennant. The young couple moved to the Best farm. Elmer was active in the United Methodist Church in Tennant where he held several offices over the years. He also was active in the Shelby County Farm Bureau and later elected to the State Farm Bureau. In addition, he served on the Shelby-Tennant School Board. Due to back trouble, he was forced to retire from farming. He became an employee of Jacob's Corporation in Harlan, working his way up to Operations Coordinator. He retired from there April 1, 1991. He was a member of the Country Roads Band playing upright bass, fiddle and mountain dulcimer. The group played for churches, nursing homes and for their own enjoyment. The couple first wintered in Florida in 1991 and later in San Juan, TX. Elmer emceed jams at their community in McAllen and also every June at Botna Bend Park in Hancock. He entered the hospital in McAllen, TX, Feb. 27, 2000, and died April 15, 2000, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 73 years, five months and 17 days.

In addition to his father, He was preceded in death by his brother, Carl; sister, Ellen; and step grandson, Jerri V. South. He is survived by his wife, Frances Jensen of Shelby; his mother, Kathrine Jensen of Walnut; children, David Jensen (Kim) of Smyrna, GA; Cindy South of Co. Bluffs; Rich Jensen (LuAnn) of Shelby; Denise (Cliff) DeSchamp of Perry; Garland Jensen and friend, Dona Underwood of Avoca; 13 grandchildren; two great grandchildren; sisters, Elsie Baker of Co. Bluffs and Betty Paulsen of Atlantic; brother, Robert Jensen (Ellen) of Tennant; and other family members.

Funeral services were held April 18, 2000, at Shelby United Methodist Church with Pastor Vickie Steffes officiating. Military rites were conducted at the Shelby Cemetery by the Shelby County V.F.W. Post No. 941. Honorary casket bearers were John and Helen Barrett, Howard and Joyce Craig, Dwayne and Helen Miller, Francis and Jeanie Hahn, Gordon and Beverly Muhm, David and Janice Wimmer and Jay and Gladys Doyel. Casket bearers were Eric Jensen, Amanda Jensen, Justin Jensen, Cody Jensen, Jarred Peterson, Amber Jensen, Brent DeSchamp, Chris South, Nathan Jensen and Jeff Jensen. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

