

Laverne D. Kaven, 84

March 8, 1909 - Nov. 14, 1993

Avoca-- Laverne Dean Kaven was born in Minden March 8, 1909. He was the oldest son of W.O. and Emma (Kraack) Kaven. He was one of five sons in the family. He attended school in Minden and graduated in 1927. He attended Iowa State College in Ames, where he studied drafting.

He married Hazel Hopp, daughter of Frank and Ella (Mass) Hopp, July 10, 1928. He worked in the construction business with his father and brothers until 1937, when he moved his family to Avoca. He spent his entire working life in the carpentry and building trade. He was involved with most aspects of construction, from surveying and drawing the blueprints, to working along side his crew during the actual construction. His work is well known in southwest Iowa with almost 200 residential structures as well as many commercial and agricultural buildings to his credit. He was instrumental in developing homes in the Olesen addition as well as plots on Frost Avenue in Avoca. The community benefited from his involvement, as E.C. Macklin and Laverne guided much of the development and planning of Edgington Park, located east of Avoca. He was also a long time member of the Avoca Fire Department and a member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

He died at the Colonial Manors Nursing Home in Avoca Nov. 13, 1993, where he had been a resident since 1990, at age 84 years, 8 months and 6 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a grandson, Kent Kaven, three brothers; Creighton Kaven, Billie Kaven and Orvel Kaven and a brother-in-law, Art Hopp. Survivors are his wife, Hazel, who is a resident of the Colonial Manors Nursing Home, their children; Byron Kaven (Jan), of Golden, CO, Joan (H.A.(Bing)) Lohafer of Avoca and Dennis (Ann) of Des Moines, six grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, a brother Harley Kaven (Adelene) of Omaha, sisters-in-law; Geneva Kaven of Avoca, Gladys Kaven of Minden and Jennie Hopp of Harlan, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Nov. 17, 1993 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca with Interim Pastor Kathy Gies and Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland cemetery in Avoca. Casket bearers were Brian Lohafer, Scott Kaven, Amy Kaven, Dale Kaven, Dennis Turner and Darrell Stamp. Knudson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.