

Russell Kern, 76

Jan. 5, 1925 - March 22, 2001

WALNUT - Russell Eugene Kern was born Jan. 5, 1925, to Bradie and Lela Kern. He graduated from Shelby High School in 1942. He was in the United States Army from Oct. 20, 1945 to June 4, 1947.

He married Thelma Mae Randall March 9, 1946. She died Dec. 10, 1969. He farmed around the Shelby and Pottawattamie County areas, worked as a carpenter and also for the City of Council Bluffs until retiring in 1987. Russell and Thelma had five children, Catherine, Janet, Dale, Alice and a baby daughter (who was stillborn).

Russell later married Helen M. Morriss Feb. 15, 1987. They moved to Walnut, where they established the Kern Flea Market. He died March 22, 2001, at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, after an extended illness at age 76.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Thelma; his daughter, Alice; and stillborn daughter; his sister, Mary Elder; and brothers, Edmund, Duane and Dean. Survivors include his wife, Helen of Walnut; three children, Catherine Bouvier (Alfred "Butch") of Council Bluffs; Janet Dibble (Donald) of Yutan, NE; Dale (Teena) of Council Bluffs; and a son-in-law, Talmage Quick of Council Bluffs; sisters, Lois Monk (Karl) of Warrenburg, MO; Donna Light (Paul) of Alamogordo, NM; brothers, Carroll (Lori) of Fayette, OH; Bradie (Barb) of Eldorado Springs, MO; stepdaughters, Diane Walters (Scott) of Council Bluffs; Donna Nelsen and her friend, Dennis Frank of Council Bluffs; Denise Scott of Eagleville, MO and Donelle Green (Terry) of Walnut; eight grandchildren; six great grandchildren; nine step grandchildren and two step great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 25, 2001, at the Knutson Funeral Home, Avoca, with Pastor Karen Handke officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Nathan Scott, Shari Maschmeier, Dalton Green, Jennifer Colter, Wendy Bouvier, Brenda Ahlstrom, Julie Nelsen, Tara Green, Joy Nelsen, Marci Walters and Jill Nelsen. Casket bearers were Dustan Kern, Talmage Quick, Jeremy Kern, Casey Walters, Donald Dibble, Jr., and T.J. Scott.