

Vernon H. Knudsen, 77

Sept. 7, 1921 - Oct. 29, 1998

ELK HORN - Vernon Henry, son of Henry and Clara Hoegh Knudsen, was born Sept. 7, 1921, at home on the farm in Oakfield Township, Audubon County. He attended country school and then graduated from Elk Horn High School in 1939. After graduation he worked on the family farm.

Dec. 24, 1941, he married Hazel Hansen. Five children were born to this union. He continued to work on the farm until he was drafted into the United States Navy in 1944. After receiving his honorable discharge he returned to Elk Horn where he purchased the International Harvester Dealership. For a number of years Leo Kragelund joined him in his implement business. He enjoyed his work and after selling his business he continued to deal in used farm machinery. He was a member of the Elk Horn Lutheran Church. Vernon was diagnosed with cancer early in 1998 and after several months of failing health, he entered Audubon County Memorial Hospital near the beginning of October. He died there Oct. 29, 1998, at age 77 years, one month and 22 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Kathleen Knudsen in 1979; two sisters, Ethel Kitelinger and Edna Hansen; and two brothers, Harry Knudsen and Richard Knudsen. He is survived by his wife, Hazel Knudsen of Elk Horn; four children, Ron Knudsen of Atchison, KS; Judy (Lanny) Jacobsen of Ankeny; Clara Heilig of McAlester, OK and Jeanette (Duane) Nielsen of Exira; 13 grandchildren, Sally Ortgies, Kim Staton, John Jacobsen, Darrin Knudsen, Jon Knudsen, Kari Murray, Brian Knudsen, Jason Knudsen, Todd Nielsen, Matt Nielsen, Nathan Nielsen, Amy Adamson and Chris Heilig; six great grandchildren, Paige Staton, Clara Ortgies, Kayle and Kyle Murray and Molly and Michael Adamson; two sisters-in-law, Virginia Knudsen of Omaha, NE and Ardyce Knudsen of Atlantic; and nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 31, 1998, at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church with Pastor Michael Williams officiating. Burial was in the Elk Horn Lutheran Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Sally Ortgies, Kim Staton, Nathan Nielsen, Amy Adamson, Kari Murray, Brian Knudsen and Jason Knudsen. Casket bearers were John Jacobsen, Chris Heilig, Darrin Knudsen, Todd Nielsen, Jon Knudsen and Matt Nielsen. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.