

Herbert Carl Olesen, 76

Nov. 19, 1919 - Oct. 20, 1996

AVOCA - Herbert Carl Olesen was born Nov. 19, 1919, in Avoca and died Oct. 20, 1996 at Salem Lutheran Homes. He was a gifted athlete in high school, excelling in football and basketball and graduated from Avoca High School with the class of 1937. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1941, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He served in the U.S. Army and attained the rank of Major.

He married Eleanor Wild March 31, 1941. Upon being discharged from the Army in 1946, they returned to Avoca where he went into the automobile business with his father. In addition, he was engaged in farming for a number of years. In the late 50's, he began construction of what came to be known as Olesen Subdivision, a much needed housing development on the northeast edge of Avoca. He played important roles in community improvements including the building of the swimming pool and the golf course. He was a member of the United Church of Avoca, the Mt. Nebo Lodge of the Masonic Temple, American Legion Post #227, Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, the Elks Club and the Avoca Business and Professional Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents, J. Chris and Lillie Maassen Olesen, and his sister, Margaret Olesen. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; sons, J.C. (Wilma) and Willard (Susan); daughter, Catherine (Jay) Howe; seven grandchildren; two step grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Funeral services were held Oct. 23, 1996 at the United Church of Avoca with Rev. William Bynagte officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery with military graveside rites by the Avoca American Legion Post #227. Honorary casket bearers were Ronald Johnson, George Weirick, Frank Sunstrom, Paul Brown, Joe Davis, Earl Sievers and Orville Gordon. Casket bearers were Brandi Olesen, Jeremy Olesen, J. Olesen II, Kathryn Olesen, Andrew Olesen, Robert Benson and Molly Olesen. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.