

## Harald A. Petersen, 77

**AVOCA** — Harald Arthur Petersen was born in Shelby, Oct. 12, 1910. He was the son of Andrew and Martine Christensen Petersen. He was one of four children in the family. He attended school at Shelby.

In 1936 he moved to Avoca to work for Les Thomsen in the D-X Oil Station, which was later moved across the street and become the Conoco Oil Station. When WW 2 started he went into the Army, where he attained the rank of M/Sgt. He married Valora Sutherland Sept. 1, 1943 at Starkville, MS. After the war he returned to Avoca and back into the oil business. They were the parents of three sons, Mike, Greg and Stan.

He was active in community affairs and served as Mayor from 1972 until 1980. He had served on the city council, water board, Pottawattamie county compensation board and had been a member of the Avoca Rotary Club, Avoca Community Club and the Avoca Business and Professional Club. He was presently a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, American Legion Post. No. 227, over 40 year member of the Avoca Fire Dept., WW2 Pottawattamie County Last Mans Club and on the board of directors of the Avoca Housing Corporation. He retired from the Conoco Station in 1975 and the last several years he had worked at the Nelsen Mini-Mart. He received the "Inspirational Award" from the Avoca Business and Professional Club for his outstanding contribution to the Avoca Community in 1984. He died at Myrtue hospital on Jan. 4, 1988 at age 77 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Valora; his sons, Mike of Naperville, IL; Greg of Avoca; and Stan of Omaha; seven grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs Delmon (Florence) Bornholdt of Avoca; Mrs Walter (Inger) Dillon of Co. Bluffs; and one brother, Clarence of Racine, WI and other relatives.

Services were held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Avoca with Pastor Harold Peterson officiating. Burial was in the Graceland cemetery, Avoca with Ernie Hogeland, Lloyd Petersen, Donald Nelsen, Floyd Rhondes, Richard Brown and Daryle Bailey serving as casket bearers. Berthusen-Knutson Funeral Home, Avoca, was in charge of arrangements.