

Leroy Pedersen, 76

April 4, 1930 - Aug. 6, 2006

ELK HORN — Leroy Leistad, son of Peder K. and Olga (Leistad) Pedersen, was born April 4, 1930, in rural Audubon County. He graduated from Elk Horn High School in 1948. After high school, he worked on his uncle's farm for a couple of years before taking a job at Pelgas in Atlantic.

Aug. 26, 1950, Leroy married Clara Kelley of Atlantic. Three children were born to this union. The couple took up residence in Atlantic while he continued with Pelgas until joining the United States Army. After his honorable discharge in 1953, they moved to Elk Horn to run the Fina Station, establishing Leroy's Service. Leroy retired in 1994 after 41 years in business. He was baptized and confirmed in the Elk Horn Lutheran Church and at the time of his death was an active member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Atlantic. Church involvement was a significant part of his life. He was a lifelong member of the Better Elk Horn Club. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Salem Lutheran Home, Danish Windmill, Danish Immigrant Museum, and had served on the Marne Elk Horn Telephone Company Board for the past 15 years. Leroy received a volunteer award from the Danish Immigrant Museum for 1000 hours of volunteer work. He was a shareholder and board member of the AmericInn Motel and Suites of Elk Horn. Following a year-long battle with cancer, he died Aug. 6, 2006, at Bergen Mercy Hospital, in Omaha, NE at age 76 years, four months and two days.

Leroy was preceded in death by his parents, infant sister, Gudren Pedersen, sister, Joyce Strandskov; brother-in-law, Paul Nielsen; and nephews, Jon Strandskov and Dean Jacobsen. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Clara Pedersen of Elk Horn; daughter, Cindy Murillo of Clarksville, TN; son, Pastor Kelley Pedersen of Niobrara, NE; daughter, Jody (Scot) Janssen of Stacyville; three grandchildren, Jeremiah Murillo and Justin and Holly Janssen; three sisters, Margery (Dallas) Hansen, Helen Nielsen, and Gudren (Warren) Jacobsen, all of Elk Horn, nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 10, 2006, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Atlantic, with Pastor Dennis Meyer and Pastor Sally Meyer officiating. Casket bearers were Howard Sorensen, Marne Elk Horn Telephone Co. Board Members: Marilyn Knudsen, Bernard Kaltoff, Terry Madsen, Gary Larsen, Bryan Clemson and Devin Moeller. Honorary casket bearers were friends since Clara and Leroy's teenage years Calvin Hoegh, Chet Holland, Darwin Petersen, Merle Funk, Lawrence Rasmussen and Burton Esbeck. A private family burial was held in the Elk Horn Lutheran Cemetery. Ohde Funeral Home in Kimballton in charge of arrangements.

