

Wm. Gordon "Pete" Pedersen, 78

June 24, 1919 - Oct. 28, 1997

OMAHA - William Gordon Pedersen was born in Hjørring, Denmark, June 24, 1919. He came with his parents as immigrants to America at age 9 months. They settled with relatives in Iowa in the Fiscus area. They later moved to Galva where his father worked as a plumber. In 1924 the family moved to Harlan where Gordon started his schooling. He completed his education, attending Polk #1 country school and graduated in 1938 from the Irwin High School. He then took a home correspondence course with Coin Electric. He then joined his father and brother in Pedersen Plumbing and Electrical Service. He also served as REA Inspector for the Shelby County area.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 1942, he married Margaret Torpy at the home of the bride's parents. Jan. 19, 1943, he left to serve his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was later sent to Sheppard Field at Wichita Falls, TX where he attended Air Force Mechanic School. After receiving his discharge due to health problems, he and Margaret moved to Omaha and worked at the Martin Bomber Plant until the end of the war. After the war, he found employment with the Miller Electric Company, working there for 33 years until his retirement. He was baptized in the Baptist faith as a child. After marriage, he became a Methodist and when they moved to Omaha they transferred to the Covenant Presbyterian Church, where they were active members for nearly 50 years. He was a member of the Benson Legion, Danish Brotherhood Lodge #1 and IBEW Local 22. He died at Immanuel Hospital Oct. 28, 1997, at age 78 years.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret; daughters, Sharon Weremy of Omaha; Linda (Don) Trotter of Lenexa, KS; three grandchildren, Christine Weremy and Ben and Erin Trotter; sister, Vernie Wetzel of Manning; and brother, Kenneth Pedersen of Irwin; brother and sisters-in-law, Bill and Etta Torpy, Minneapolis, MN; Ann Torpy of Omaha; Lois Torpy of Denver, CO and Barbara Keiser; Ruth Morgan Decker and Peggy Orr were special to Gordon and he claimed them as his daughters; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 31, 1997, at Roeder Mortuary in Omaha. Burial was in the Forest Lawn Cemetery, Omaha, with military honors by the Benson VFW 2503. Honorary casket bearers were Don Johnson, George Ostemiller, Slim Trussel, Melvin Allen and Robert Wetzel. Casket bearers were Tom Stewart, Danny Hanson, Bob Gates, Larry Torpy, Harold Glenn Wetzel, Jed Gates, Steve Torpy and Bill Von Tersch.

