

Gorden E. Petersen, 85

March 24, 1915 – Aug. 19, 2000

HARLAN – Gorden Eske Petersen was born March 24, 1915, to Elvina (Otzen) and Peter Eske Petersen on a farm one and one-half miles north of Jacksonville. He was baptized and confirmed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. He attended school at Jackson No. 2 near Jacksonville.

Aug. 31, 1938, he married Isabelle Louise Sorensen in the Parsonage of the Lutheran Church in Harlan. To this union three children were born. Following their wedding, the couple farmed in the Jacksonville area. They moved to Minnesota in 1951, living first in Little Falls and then moving to Minneapolis in 1967. From 1971 to 1975, they made their home in Hollywood, FL. Isabelle died Jan. 27, 1975, in Hollywood, FL.

Gorden married Leona Irene Christensen Aug. 16, 1975, at the Little Brown Church in the Vale in Nashua. The couple made their home in Harlan where Gorden was employed at Harlan Manufacturing. He later worked for Southwest Transit driving a bus in the Shelby County area for senior citizens. He retired from this position in 1999. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, but often attended church with Leona at the Harlan Church of Christ. He was a gifted musician demonstrating his talents on the mandolin, violin, harmonica and guitar playing at local dances. He died Aug. 19, 2000, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 85 years, four months and 26 days.

In addition to his parents and Isabelle, he was preceded in death by daughter, Karen Petersen, and two stepsons, Elwood and Gary Christensen. He is survived by his wife, Leona Petersen of Harlan; children, Diane Petersen of Minneapolis, MN and Bernard Petersen (Shirley) of Minneapolis, MN; stepson, Daryl Christensen (Joy) of Sioux Falls, SD; ten grandchildren; nine great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 22, 2000, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, with Pastors Jon Benson, Heather Becklin and Minister Roy North officiating. Burial was in the Jacksonville Cemetery, with Eugene Gaer, Lynn McCord, Gary Jorgensen and Wade Sorensen honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Tom Gaer, Clayton Sorensen, Walt Staiert, Bill Lambert, Mark Ozburn and Douglas Gaer. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.