

Lester Ploen, 95

Nov. 9, 1916 - Aug. 8, 2012

SHELBY — Lester "Les"

William Ploen was born on November 9, 1916 in rural Harrison County, on "The Ponderosa", a farm west of Shelby. He was the firstborn son of William "Bill" Carl Ploen and Minnie Kay Ploen. In his childhood he lived with his family on various farms in the Shelby vicinity. He attended Shelby Community Schools and began farming at age sixteen. In 1950, he bought a farm south of Shelby and was physically active in its operation until the age of 90. He resided there until April of 2012, when he became a resident of the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center. He was a member of the Shelby Methodist Church.



February 17, 1951, Les married Doris Marie Schmidt, meeting her at a dance in Minden. They were married at Saint John's United Church of Christ in Council Bluffs. To this union were born a daughter, Sylvia Diane in 1952 and a son Larry William in 1956. An infant son preceded him in death in 1955. Lester took great pride in his family and his farm. He thoroughly enjoyed his children, his granddaughters, and his great-grandchildren. He also enjoyed treating his family and friends to meals out. He was a livestock farmer for many years, raising hogs and fat cattle, which he hauled himself to the Omaha Stockyards. He was a member of Farm Service Coop and the Farm Bureau. Lester died on Wednesday, August 8, 2012, at the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center, having attained the age of ninety-five years, eight months, and thirty days.

Les is preceded in death by his parents and his infant son. He is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Doris Ploen of Shelby; daughter Sylvia and her husband Chuck Terlouw of West Des Moines; son Larry Ploen of Shelby; granddaughters Amy Terlouw Tracy and her husband John Tracy of West Des Moines, and Laura Terlouw Buttorf and her husband Jason Buttorf of San Francisco, CA; great-grandchildren Joclyn and Jack Tracy of West Des Moines; sister Lois Kahler of Minden; brothers Dale Ploen, and his wife Mary of Knoxville and Harley Ploen of Walnut; other family members and friends.

Pastor Orris Drake officiated the 10:30 a.m. funeral service at Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca, on Saturday, August 11, 2012. Burial was held in the Minden Cemetery in Minden

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with John Wingert, Jack Ploen, Robert Ploen, Rich Stuhr, Richard Mattox and Gary Kahler serving as casket bearers. Honorary casket bearers were Frank Evans, Douglas Kiesel, Charlie Leaders, Robert Stuhr, Tony Wingert and Roscoe Casson.

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