

**John Ingval Solomonson**  
*October 11, 1907—July 9, 2001*

*Funeral Services: July 11, 2001, 10:30 am*  
*North Prairie Lutheran Church, rural Leland, Iowa*

**Obituary**

John Ingval Solomonson was born October 11, 1907, the son of Solomon and Serene (Martinson-Twito) Solomonson. A 1926 graduate of Scarville High School, he was baptized and confirmed in the Christian faith at North Prairie Lutheran Church. In 1936 he married Opal Willand at Sion Lutheran Church near Lake Mills. With his father, John and Opal operated the farm where John was born. They moved to their new home in Lake Mills in 1982.

John and Opal's marriage was blessed with three children: Owen, who worked at D.O.T. at Ames till his retirement in 1999; Sonia, managing editor of *The Lutheran* magazine; and Cheryl (Mrs. Larry Crockett), owner of an editing and desktop publishing business.

John's community life was centered at North Prairie, where he served on various boards and as treasurer for 20 years. He also served as director and treasurer of the rural school district for many years. A member of the board of directors of the Scarville Telephone Company for several years, John served as director, secretary-treasurer, manager and lineman. The rebuilding program instigated by John to install a new phone in every home was about one-third finished when the Winnebago Cooperative was formed, giving the entire community a dial phone system.

Ten years before retiring, John worked at Larson Manufacturing, where he was foreman of the Supreme door department. Early in 1959 he began a sideline business which brought him great pleasure—selling specialty advertising to local businesses. Specializing in ballpoint pens, he became known as the Pen Man, and was twice rated nationally as next-to-the-top salesman (1997 and 2000). Most of his satisfaction, however, was derived from giving pens away to those around him. At the age of 70 John took a night course at Forest City High School, which led to his creating many leaded-glass lamps, windows and other items. He was awarded second place in craft shows at the Clay County Fair, as well as in a craft show in Lake Mills.

He is survived by his wife Opal, of Lake Mills; his son Owen Solomonson, of Lake Mills; his daughter Sonia Solomonson, Streamwood, IL; his daughter Cheryl Crockett and her husband Larry, Eagan, MN; six grandchildren, Peter Groenewold and his wife Sandi, Appleton, WI; Joel Groenewold and his wife Susie, Hinsdale, IL; Aaron Groenewold, Normal, IL; Randy Nelsen, San Antonio, TX; Kelsey Crockett, Eagan, MN; and Carmen Crockett, Eagan, MN. Six great-grandchildren also survive him: Spencer, Noah, Gretchen, Maggie and Elizabeth Groenewold, Hinsdale, IL; and Olivia Groenewold, Appleton, WI. He also leaves behind two sisters: Cathryn Gullixson, Minneapolis, MN, and Evelyn Matson, Amery, WI; and a brother Milford Solomonson, Amery, WI.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister Carol Palm.