

Lester Hargens, 64

AVOCA – Lester Christian Hargens was born in Manning, Dec. 4, 1924. He was the son of Chris and Anna Wiese Hargens. He was one of 11 children in the family. He was inducted into the Army on May 5, 1943 and was a Light Mortar Gunner in the infantry. He was wounded Aug. 19, 1944 in northern France. He received the EAMET Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon and the Purple Heart. He was honorably discharged from the military on Sept. 15, 1945.

He married Thelma Winsor on Aug. 4, 1946. They were the parents of eight children. He was baptized and a member of the Methodist Church in Manning. Lester, Thelma and five sons moved to Avoca in 1967. He worked at the American Beef Plant in Oakland for 13 years. He has been disabled since 1979. He died on Sept. 18, 1989 at the Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Co. Bluffs at age 64 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three children: Karen Kay, Eugene Christian and Robert Dale; one sister, Berdyne Martens; one brother, Roy Hargens; his father-in-law, Charley Winsor and a brother-in-law, Leroy Lueth. Surviving him are his wife, Thelma of Avoca; five sons, Richard of Avoca; Randy of Walnut; Russell of Avoca; Roger of Pleasantville; and Rodney of Avoca; 12 grandchildren; eight brothers and sisters; Arlene Lueth of Manilla; Harry Hargens of Omaha, NE.; Virtus Hargens of LeMars; Ralph Hargens of Omaha, NE.; Harvey Hargens of North Bend, OR.; Lois Crane of Del Rapids, S.D.; Lavonne Culver of Carmichael, CA.; Billie Hargens of Pleasantville; brother-in-law, Clifford Martens of Avoca; mother-in-law, Mrs Charles Winsor of Manning, beside other relatives.

Services were held Sept. 20, 1989 with Dr. Robert Houser, officiating. Casketbearers were Amos Lohmeier, Dennis Langer, Fred Miller III, Leon Brotherson, Steven Yates and Terry Kuhr. Burial was in Graceland cemetery in Avoca. Knutson Funeral Home in Avoca in charge of arrangements.