

Derward Hansen, 77

Dec. 24, 1928 - Aug. 4, 2006

EXIRA — Derward Christian Hansen, the son of Thorvald and Eda Christensen Hansen, was born Dec. 24, 1928, at his parents' home in Sharon Township, Audubon County. He was baptized April 28, 1929, at Bethany Lutheran Church northeast of Kimballton, and later confirmed at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church. He attended rural Audubon County schools then attended Audubon High School graduating with the high school class of 1947. After graduation, he worked in Omaha, NE for a short time then returned to the Audubon area. He then worked as a farm hand in rural Audubon County. After their marriage, they farmed west of Exira.

Feb. 26, 1950, Derward married Darlene Lange at Bethany Lutheran Church northeast of Kimballton. To this union six children were born, Jolene, Wayne, Craig, Becky, Cristie and Janelle. They lived in rural Audubon County and moved to Exira in 1959. He began working at the Exira Creamery in 1957 and stayed in the dairy industry until his retirement in 1999. In June of 1962, they moved to the country east of Exira where they lived until June 2006 when they moved back to Exira. Derward was a longtime member of the Exira Lutheran Church where he served on the church council for three terms. He was also a member of the Iowa Association of Milk, Food, and Environmental Sanitarians since 1965 and served as president in 1984 and 1985; was a member of the Exira Fire Department since 1960; served two terms on the Exira Community School Board serving one year as president of the School Board; was a Cub Scout Master and assistant Boy Scout leader, 4-H leader, and a member of the Exira Lions Club also serving as president for two terms. Derward and Darlene celebrated their golden anniversary together Feb. 26, 2000. He died Aug. 4, 2006, at the Audubon County Memorial Hospital at age 77 years, seven months and 11 days.

Preceding Derward in death were his parents; his brother, Glynn Hansen; his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Franklin Lange, Emmert Lange, Harry and wife, Selma Walters, Thomas Madsen, Folmer Weddum, Arnold and wife, Elsie Bro, and Edvard Jensen. Survivors include his wife, Darlene Hansen of Exira; his children, Jolene (Clay) Andersen of Omaha, NE; Wayne (Tamara) Hansen of Cumming; Craig Hansen of Yarmouth; Becky (Mark) Rold of Elk Horn; Cristie (Paul) Knudsen of Exira; Janelle (Ken) Hunnicutt of Giltner, NE; grandchildren, Darin (Miki) Kiel of Kumamoto, Japan; Brian Kiel of San Francisco, CA; Shaun Kiel of Omaha; Lynn (Jessie) Calloway of Omaha; Luke Andresen of Omaha; Justin Hansen of Portland, OR; Mindy (Clint) Dudley of Johnston; Tawn Hansen of Denver, IA; Travis Hansen of Des Moines; Allison (Kevin) Bergman of New London; Matthew (Tammy) Rold of Columbia, MO; Lukas (Lisa) Rold of Nevada, IA; Heather (Mark) Smith of Altoona; Nicholas (Lana) Rold of Des Moines; Brandon Rold of Maryville, MO; Steven Rold of Elk Horn; Jessie Stetanski of Ankeny; Lindie Stefanski of Exira; Eric (Tiffany) Knudsen of Temecula, CA; Nathan Knudsen of Des Moines; Charles (Selene) Knudsen of Montclair, CA; April Knudsen of Waterloo; Kirsten Hansen of Des Moines; his great-grandchildren, Tyson and Colby Smith of Altoona; Samantha Rold of Nevada; Emma Kiel of Kumamoto; Molly Dudley of Johnston; Alex Calloway of Omaha; Marshal Knudsen of Des Moines; Charles Knudsen of Montclair; his brother, Darrel (Donna) Hansen of Atlantic; his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Betty Hansen of Exira; Edna Jensen of Elk Horn; Irma Madsen of Kimballton; Erma Lange of Atlantic; Mildred Weddum of Atlantic; Myrtle (Dale) Juelsgaard of Elk Horn; Shirley Lange of Knoxville, TN; Dorothy Hansen of Kimballton; and Kenneth (Elizabeth) Lange of Elgin, TX; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 8, 2006, at the Exira Lutheran Church with Pastor Bill Embree officiating. Burial was in the Exira Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were his granddaughters, Mindy Dudley, Heather Smith, Jessie Stefanski, Kirsten Hansen, Tawn Hansen, Allison Bergman and Lindie Stefanski. Casket bearers were his grandsons, Justin Hansen, Darin Kiel, Brian Kiel, Shaun Kiel, Travis Hansen, Steven Rold, Matthew Rold, Lukas Rold, Nicholas Rold and Brandon Rold. Kessler Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.