

LaVern Hansen, 77

Jan. 19, 1926 - March 28, 2003

MATHIS, TX - LaVern Glen Hansen, son of Niels and Sorina Ahrenkiel Hansen, was born in Elk Horn, Jan. 19, 1926. At age eight, his mother died and when LaVern was 11 his father had a stroke, so LaVern was then raised in the Elk Horn Children's Home. In 1943, at age 17, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served overseas in Germany, as a machinist's mate for four years before he was honorably discharged. LaVern started tinkering with cars at age 12 and was a mechanic by trade. He worked at Benton Motors and then worked for the Iowa Department of Transportation for 28 years before he retired. He also established Hansen's Garage where he worked on cars and trucks.



Feb. 3, 1948, he married Donna Mae Myrtue at the Lutheran Parsonage in Harlan. In 1994, he moved to Mathis, TX to spend his retirement days on Corpus Christi Lake.

Nov. 4, 1995, LaVern married Opal McMasters in Mathis, TX. He died March 28, 2003, at George West, TX, at age 77 years, two months and nine days.

In addition to his parents, LaVern was preceded in death by his half-brothers, Eddie Olson and Belmont Olson of Elk Horn; stepson, Gary Lee Hansen, Jan. 13, 1963; his wife, Donna Mae Hansen, Oct. 22, 1981; his grandson, Jason LaVern Gessert, Nov. 2, 1996; and daughter, Karla Mae Christiansen, Sept. 13, 1997. Survivors include his wife, Opal of Mathis, TX; his son, Michael Hansen (Colleen) of Harlan; stepchildren, Marie Clark, Clarence Cole, Renata Taegue and Sandra Black, all of Texas; his sister, Viola Sander of Elk Horn; 19 grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 2, 2003, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home with Rev. Gundar Lamberts officiating. Casket bearers were Jim Olson, Dave Olson, Dan Olson, Terry Sander, Jim Myrtue and Jerry Myrtue. Burial was held at the Harlan Cemetery.