

## Herman J. Harmsen, 84

*May 31, 1916 - Feb. 21, 2001*

**HARLAN** — Herman John Harmsen was born May 31, 1916, to Matilda D. (Hansen) and John Cornelius Harmsen near Avoca. One of seven children, he lived in Albia, until his teens. The family returned to Walnut in May of 1931, where he worked as a farm hand.

He met his wife to be, Edith Marie Biederman, at a community dance in Walnut. They were married Feb. 20, 1940, at Avoca. To this union, five children were born. The young couple resided near Walnut, and he worked for several local farmers. While living there, Carol Diane and Colleen Marie were born. In 1949, the couple purchased a 120 acre farm 3 miles east of Portsmouth, and Jack Leon, Linda Joy and Robert Herman were added to the family. In 1962, the Portsmouth farm was sold and a 150 acre farm 2 1/2 miles east of Harlan was purchased. In addition to farming, he worked for Gearhart Lumber Company in Harlan, where he replaced numerous farmhouse roofs in the area and helped with the construction of many home additions. Later in his retirement, he occupied his time by building custom storage sheds. They resided there until Edith's death in 1993. Following Edith's death, he moved to Harlan where he lived on 12th Street. In 1997, he moved into his daughter, Linda Stanley's home on 6th Street, where he resided until his death. He died Feb. 21, 2001, at age 84 years, eight months and 21 days. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Edith, July 22, 1993; brothers, Martin, Emiel and Lawrence; and one sister, Ella Andersen. He is survived by his children, Carol (David) Lunning of O'Fallon, IL; Colleen (Russell) Khouri of Dove Canyon, CA; Jack Harmsen (Sandy) of Mesa, AZ; Linda (Jim) Stanley of Harlan and Robert Harmsen (Pamela) of Harlan; five grandchildren; one great grandchild; sisters, Rosie (Robert) Dietz of Norfolk, NE and Lillian (Harlow) Butcher of Norfolk, NE; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 24, 2001, at the Pauley Funeral Home with Pastor Jon Benson officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Randy Ouren, Deric Gardner, David Lunning, Jr., Russ Khouri, Tom Stanley and David Lunning, Sr. casket bearers.

