

Harris Heft, 89

June 25, 1916 and June 4, 2006

AVOCA — Harris James Heft was born June 25, 1916, in Oakland, son of Carl and Edna Harris Heft. He was baptized in and belonged to the Oakland Methodist Church. His family moved to the Harris farm, east of Hancock in 1918, and lived there until 1924. They left the farm because of his father's health. The family spent some time in Hancock, Colorado and Woodbine before moving back to Oakland in 1928. They lived there until Harris graduated from high school in 1933, then moved to the McKinny farm east of Hancock.

Harris and Esther Maassen were married March 10, 1937. He joined the First Lutheran Church in Avoca, where they have both been active members in what is now Trinity Lutheran Church. He helped build the "new church". They lived with his folks until the fall when his folks moved to Hancock to live with his grandmother, Harris. Harris and Esther lived on the farm until they moved to Avoca in the fall of 1999. They were the parents of three daughters, Julianne Esther, Janiece Ellen and Carolyn Christine. They worked together on their farm and raised cattle. Other jobs included driving a school bus, a van for AEA 13 and for the Avoca Alfalfa Mill. He died June 4, 2006, at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs, at age 89 years, 11 months and 10 days.

Harris is survived by his wife, Esther of Avoca; his daughters, Julianne (Roger) Thompson of McAllen, TX; Janiece Schroder of Shelby; and Carolyn (Henry) Stelling of Plainview, MN; six grandchildren, Sonia (Steve) Shepherd, Lori Thompson, Dale (Connie) Schroder, Shari Schroder, Brent (Tricia) Stelling and Christopher Stelling; four great-grandchildren, Jenna, Devin and Katelin Schroder and Sophia Stelling; two sisters and their families, Geneva Maassen of Avoca and Beulavon (Don) Beatty of Hancock; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 7, 2006, at the Trinity Lutheran Church with Pastor Dennis Reich officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Hancock. Honorary casket bearers were Clarence and Delores Harder and sons, Louie, Jeff and Paul; Maurice and Hazel Miller; John and Betty Oehlertz; and Brian and Sharon McCutchen. Casket bearers were his grandchildren, Dale Schroder, Brent Stelling, Sonia Shepherd, Shari Schroder, Christopher Stelling and Lori Thompson. Knutson Family Chapel in charge of arrangements.