

## Nels E. Larsen, 91

**AVOCA** – Nels Esben Larsen was born in Tornby, Denmark May 5, 1897, the son of Anton and Sena Larsen. He was one of two children in the family. He was raised on a small farm in Denmark. In 1914 his brother came to America where he worked to save money to send back to Nels. In 1915 he followed his brother and they both settled in the Avoca area. He went into the Army, but because of an injury to his leg he was discharged. In 1922 he and a friend traveled through TX and on to CA. They worked at whatever job they could find. In 1929 he returned to Avoca where he worked on a farm for a short time and then went to SD to work in the grain harvest fields.

He married Viola Nelson Oct. 16, 1930 at Sioux Falls, SD. They lived on several farms in SD and IA until 1934 when they moved to a farm north of Shelby. In 1964 they built a new home in Avoca. He continued to do farm work until he became the caretaker at Graceland cemetery, Avoca. Viola died in Nov., 1970. In 1971 he married Elizabeth Walker. In 1972 he retired from the cemetery. Later they moved to Harlan. Elizabeth died in January 1983. He then became a resident of the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan where he died April 15, 1989 at age 91 years, 11 months and 10 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wives, Viola and Elizabeth; two grandchildren and his brother, Marius. He is survived by four children, Kenneth Larsen of San Lorenzo, CA; Emlida (Mrs Robert) O'Neill of Avoca; Donna (Mrs George) Wells of Delhart, TX; James Larsen of Harlan; four step-children, Tom Walker of Co. Bluffs; Sam Walker of Windsor, CA; Sara (Mrs Herbert) Mengwasser of Harlan; Linda (Mrs Clyde) Kohl of Harlan; 12 grandchildren; 12 step-grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; six step great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 18, 1989 at Berthusen-Knutson Funeral Home, Avoca with Pastor Dean Sudman officiating. Burial was in Graceland cemetery, Avoca with casketbearers Ivan Larsen, Larry Lamp, Charles Kock, Marvin Larsen, Darrell Muller and Ronald Kadel.