

John G. Lawler, 77 ✓

Oct. 13, 1919 - Oct. 22, 1996

WESTSIDE - John G. Lawler was born Oct. 13, 1919, at Westside, son of James H. and Margaret (Handley) Lawler. He spent his lifetime in the Westside community and graduated from St. Ann High School in Vail. He then attended an electronics school in Omaha, NE. He entered the United States Army in April 1942, and served during World War II. He was honorably discharged in Aug. 1943.

Feb. 7, 1944, he married Catherine Lally at St. Ann Church in Vail by Father Denis Clark. The couple made their home on the family farm north of Westside. He taught violin lessons for many years at his home to many students. He was a member of St. Ann parish, Parish Choir, and former member of the Parish Finance Board. He was also a member of the Vail American Legion, Denison Council Knights of Columbus and the Luke E. Hart Assembly of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus of Defiance. He was also a 4-H leader for 28 years, a member of the Iowa Chapter of the Flying Farmers of America and a member of the American Angus Association. He died at age 77 of cancer Oct. 22, 1996, at his residence.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Blanche Lawler in infancy. He is survived by his wife, Catherine of Westside; his children, James Lawler (Kathy) of Devine, TX; Ed Lawler (Katie) of Carroll; Mary Jones (Gary) of Ankeny; Tom Lawler (Jan) of Harlan; Dorothy Olerich (Myron) of Sergeant Bluff; Kevin Lawler (Cindy) of Westside; Christine Poland (Mark) of Carroll and Jeff Lawler (Nancy) of Des Moines; 27 grandchildren; four great grandchildren; one sister, Beatrice Benton (Lyman) of Milan, IL; two aunts, one uncle and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 25, 1996 at St. Ann Church in Vail. Celebrants were Father Lloyd White, Father Victor Ramaeker and Father Harold Cooper. Burial was in St. Ann Cemetery in Vail. Military honors were conducted by the Vail American Legion. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus from the Defiance Assembly formed an honor guard at the church and at the funeral home. Casket bearers were Steve Lawler, Mike Olerich, Tim Lawler, T. J. Lawler, Matt Jones and Danny Lawler.