

Merle Lechtenberger, Sr., 88

Dec. 6, 1917 - April 23, 2006

BAY MINETTE, AL — Merle Victor Lechtenberger, Sr. was born Dec. 6, 1917, near Daykin, NE, the third child of Clara (Jordan) and Adolph O Lechtenberger. He grew up in Nebraska working with his parents and for neighbors. He helped at the Lechtenberger Family Dairy in Geneva, NE. While on military leave in 1941 he met Vesper Farrens.

Merle married Vesper in San Antonio, TX, June 16, 1942. He was a mechanic in the Army Air Corp. He farmed in Nebraska. When he moved to Alabama in the late 50's he worked for Woodhaven Dairy, Fairhope Dairy and Barbers. When he moved back to Iowa he had the franchise for Prairie Farms Dairy in Fontanelle. When Merle retired in 1977 he and Vesper would spend the winters in Alabama and summers at their home in Hancock. In 1993 they made their home permanently in Bay Minette, AL. Merle dedicated himself to his creator and was baptized in 2004 as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. He died April 12, 2006 at his home at age 88.

Merle is preceded in death by his parents, Clara and Adolph Lechtenberger; daughter, Dr. Cheryl Lynne; brothers, Hank, Wesley and Jack Lechtenberger; and sister, Evelyn Stoldorf. He is survived by his wife, Vesper of Bay Minette, AL; his sons, Merle Victor Lechtenberger, Jr. (Ethel) of Anna, IL and Jimmy Lee Lechtenberger (Mary) of Avoca; a daughter, Clara Birdie Falk (Larry) of Bay Minette, AL; eight grandchildren, Lori Schravendijk (Maurice) of s'Gravenzenda, The Netherlands, Lindell Lechtenberger (Tracey) of Dongola, IL; Lonnie Lechtenberger of Anna, IL; James Falk (Martha) of Bay Minette, AL; Christopher Falk of Newnan, GA; Daniel Lechtenberger (Jamie) of Shelby; Mike Lechtenberger (Carla) of Omaha, NE; David Falk (Darcy) of Bay Minette, AL; five great grandchildren, Toby Lechtenberger of Avoca; Angelique and Daan Schravendijk of s'Gravenzande, The Netherlands; Jacob and Samantha Lechtenberger of Dongola, IL; and Lauren Falk of Bay Minette, AL; sister, Irene Shelbitski of Lincoln, NE; and brothers Melvin A. Lechtenberger of Lakeview, AR and Bill Lechtenberger of Fayetteville, AR; brother-in-law, Herb Stoldorf of Geneva, NE; sisters-in-law, Wynona Lechtenberger of Geneva NE and Billie Lechtenberger of Fremont, NE; aunt, Esther Webb of Alamogordo, NM; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Memorial services were held at: Bay Minette Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses April 15, 2006.