

Willis Myrtue, 82

Nov. 29, 1917 - Sept. 29, 2000

HARLAN - Willis Martin Myrtue, son of Martin A. and Emma (Ewoldt) Kuhl Myrtue, was born Nov. 29, 1917, in rural Harlan. He attended country school in Lincoln Township, often riding his horse to school. After he completed the eleventh grade at Harlan High School, he began farming.

Nov. 26, 1941, he married Thelma Brogard in Omaha, NE. The couple farmed the Myrtue family farm in Lincoln Township until January, 1974, when they moved into Harlan. Thelma died March 28, 1988, in Omaha.

Sept. 1, 1990, Willis married Alyce M. (Van Cleave) Davis at Peace Lutheran Church in Harlan. In 1924, Willis learned the art of trapping and continued trapping beaver, muskrat, fox and mink until 1998. He competed in the sport of bowling at the Iowa Senior Games, and in 1995, qualified for the National Senior Games, receiving a silver medal. He was a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Harlan. He died Sept. 29, 2000, at his Harlan home at age 82 years and 10 months.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his first wife, Thelma; one son, Jack (in infancy); two sisters, Vera Bergloff and Donna Hansen; and four half sisters, Dorothy Rix, Laura Myrtue, Emma Engel and Hilda Huckins. Survivors include his second wife, Alyce; two sons, Jerry A. (Sheryl) Myrtue of Maryville, MO and James W. (Mary) Myrtue of Carroll; one stepson, Robert L. (Patricia) Davis of Omaha, NE; two stepdaughters, Jill M. (Brian) Tunge of Mt. Pleasant, MI and Connie A. (Scott) Goetzinger of Grinnell; one half sister, Anna Gumm of Pueblo, CO; 12 grandchildren; six great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 2, 2000, at the Peace Lutheran Church with Vicar Merlene Ostebee officiating. Honorary casket bearers were Alvin Conrad, Melvin Book, Marvin "Butch" Engel, Soren Myrtue, Merle Myrtue, Ed Drustrup, LaVern Hansen and Ken Bruck. Casket bearers were Kristopher Myrtue, Michael Hansen, Jack Knudsen, Aaron Myrtue, Richard Burgod, Bill Stinn and Tim Black. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

