

Thomas Eli Rees, 68

Jan. 10, 1928 - Sept. 30, 1996

AVOCA - Thomas Eli Rees was born near Guthrie Center, Jan. 10, 1928. He was the son of Eli and Irene Bogler Rees and was one of four children in the family. He attended country school and the Coon Rapids High School and graduated with the class of 1946. He served 18 months in the Army with the Occupation Forces in Japan. He returned home and farmed with his father near Coon Rapids.

He married Jacqueline Williams Aug. 10, 1952, at the Star Methodist Church in rural Coon Rapids. He started working in the grocery business in 1956. He worked for Super Valu in Audubon and other communities in southwest Iowa. In 1969, they purchased the Piittmann Grocery in Avoca, which they operated for three years before they sold the store. He then worked as a meat cutter for Moore Brothers in Missouri Valley. He retired in 1990. He was a past member of the Odd Fellows Lodge. He died at St. Joseph Hospital in Omaha, Sept. 30, 1996, following a sudden illness at age 68 years, eight months and 20 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his wife, Jackie; their children, Paul Rees of Co. Bluffs and Stacey (John) Wyatt of St. Augustine, FL; two sisters, Ann (Charles) Beach of Redfield and Jessie (Ed) McGuire of Cherokee; a brother, Richard Rees (LaVonne) of Beeville, TX; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 3, 1996 at the United Church of Avoca with Mr. Brian Rihner officiating. Burial was in Graceland Cemetery. Casket bearers were Donald Lundergard, Gary Monson, Charles Beach, Leo Voggesser, Richard Griffen and Ed McGuire. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.