

Harlan, Iowa Tribune, Tuesday February 15, 2005

## Merlin Schmielau, 71

*Feb. 2, 1933 - Jan. 20, 2005*

**MANILLA** — Merlin Otto, son of Otto and Emma (Behrend) Schmielau, was born Feb. 2, 1933, in Nishnabotna Township, Crawford County. Rev. Israel baptized him May 14, 1933. Merlin attended the Asmas and Boeck Country Schools near his home. Nov. 25, 1956, he was confirmed by Rev. Nutzmann at Trinity Lutheran Church in Manilla. Following his schooling, Merlin helped on the family farm. After the family moved into Walkertown in Manilla, he worked for area farmers. Merlin and his parents were caretakers of Trinity Lutheran Church. Along with his parents, he helped care for and dig graves in Astor and Nishnabotna Cemeteries. In the fall he worked for local seed corn companies. Merlin was a lifelong member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Manilla. He was a loyal community member. Merlin became a resident of the Manilla Manor Nursing Home Jan. 25, 1994. He helped with many odd jobs around the nursing home: feeding the birds, raising and lowering the flag, helping with mealtime chores and caring for the pets. He died there Jan. 20, 2005, after a battle with cancer at age 71 years, 11 months and 18 days.

Preceding Merlin in death are his parents. He is survived by first cousins including Dorothy Cleary, Robert Behrend, Wayne Behrend, Ron Meisel, Richard Meisel and Kathy Stuckmyer; his guardian and good friend, Trudy Wiechmann of Mankato, MN; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 22, 2005, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Manilla, with Pastor David Sewing officiating. Burial was in Nishnabotna Cemetery, Manilla. Casket bearers were Wayne "Bud" Saunders, Mark Segebart, Keith Boyens, Roland Huebner, Melvin Holdsworth and Jim Macumber. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.