

Melvin J. Sopher, 64

Nov. 3, 1934 - June 27, 1999

HARLAN – Melvin Jay Sopher, son of Robert and Henrietta (Van Wyk) Sopher, was born Nov. 3, 1934, in Mahaska County. He was baptized at Oskaloosa, and graduated from Oskaloosa High School.

He married Joan Roth Van Wyhe Jan. 10, 1957, at Oskaloosa. Five children were born to this union, LaVone, Barbara, Robert, Ronald and Roger. After their marriage, they lived in Oskaloosa, moving to Harlan in 1961. Over the years he worked for Harlan Builders, drove bus for Harlan Community Schools, owned the White Star Cafe and drove over the road most recently for Nationwide Transportation until his retirement. He volunteered with the Boy Scouts. He was a member and served as deacon in Christ's Church in Harlan. He died June 27, 1999, at his home in Harlan, at age 64 years, seven months and 24 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Joan of Harlan; his children, LaVone (Randy) Bradley of Sioux City; Barbara (Scott) Olander of Omaha; Robert Sopher (Kathy) of Le Mars; Ronald Sopher of Omaha; Roger Sopher (Lisa) of Round Rock, TX; six grandchildren; his sisters, Marilyn (Verlan) Van Gorp of Leighton; Caryl Ann (Gerrit) Beekhuizen of Denver, CO; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held July 1, 1999, at Pauley Funeral Home with Pastor Prichett officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Gene Block, Harvey Hemminger, Richard Joy, Lowell Sorensen, Max Edwards and Edward Logan casket bearers.

