

Wilbert Svendsen, 90

Dec. 27, 1911 - March 17, 2002

HARLAN – Wilbert Svendsen, son of Jens and Tomasina (Jensen) Svendsen, was born Dec. 27, 1911, in rural Harlan. He attended country school east of Harlan through the seventh grade and then helped his dad on the farm.

Oct. 31, 1932, Wilbert married Dagny Amalia Swensen in Botna. He continued working with his father until 1941, when the couple began farming east of Kirkman. In February 1961, he left farming and worked for a year with his son, Elliott, at the Hiway Texaco. He was then employed as a carpenter for Knudsen & Sons for 20 years, and later did interior painting and staining for a number of other area builders. Finally, he was self-employed until his retirement in 1985. He was an active member of Bethel Baptist Church in Harlan, where he had served as a deacon, Sunday School secretary, and trustee, as well as sitting on various committees. He died March 17, 2002, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 90 years, two months and 18 days.

Preceding him in death were his parents; six brothers, Anton, Henry, Gottlieb, Elmer, Leonard and Herbert; and one sister, Vernie Norgaard. Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Dagny Svendsen of Harlan; three sons, Elliott (Ardis) Svendsen of Harlan; Rev. Larry (Janice) Svendsen of Green Bay, WI and Keith (Cheryl) Svendsen of Loveland, CO; one daughter, Carol (John) Stoll of Coralville; 12 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 21, 2002, at Bethel Baptist Church in Harlan, with Rev. Larry Svendsen and Rev. Steven Svendsen officiating. Casket bearers were Doug Svendsen, Steven Svendsen, Bradley Svendsen, Darren Svendsen, Roland Svendsen, Ryan Stoll, Christopher Stoll and Nathaniel Stoll. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

