

## Earl Freeman Wiges, 87

Oct. 8, 1910 - April 11, 1998 ✓

**ELK HORN** - Earl Freeman Wiges was born Oct. 8, 1910, in Audubon County, son of Chris and Anna (Mortensen) Wiges. He died April 11, 1998, in the Salem Lutheran Nursing Home after a lengthy illness.

March 7, 1937, he married Edith Marie Christensen in the Lutheran Church in Atlantic. Two sons were born to this union, Errol and Leland. He farmed for many years, then worked for Jessen Oil Company. Following his years at Jessen Oil Company, he worked for the Ford Garage in Atlantic as a mechanic. In his retirement years he worked at the Salem Lutheran Homes. Earl spent many years pitching horseshoes. He won the Farmers State Championship in 1955 and again in 1956, and the Iowa State Championship in 1957. In 1975, he and his son, Lee, won the Doubles State Championship. In 1978, he won the World Senior Class C Championship. Earl was inducted into the Iowa Hawkeye Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame in 1980.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Leonard and Donald. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Edith of Elk Horn; sons and daughters-in-laws, Errol (Margaret) of Scottsbluff, NE and Leland (Linda) of Traer; five grandchildren, Gene Wiges of Escondido, CA; Jeffrey Wiges of Ft. Morgan, CO; Brian Wiges of Anaheim Hills, CA; Lori Weidaman of Scottsbluff, NE and Heather Wiges of Traer; five great grandchildren; a sister, Alice Mortensen of Elk Horn, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 14, 1998, at the Hansen Memorial Chapel, Salem Lutheran Retirement Home with Pastor Michael Williams, Pastor Stephen Gronseth and Pastor Harry Thompson officiating. Burial was in the Elk Horn Lutheran Cemetery. Steen Funeral Home, Kimballton, in charge of arrangements.