

William Gessmann, 73

March 20, 1929 - March 2, 2003

DENISON – William Robert Gessmann was born on a farm, rural Manilla, March 20, 1929, the son of William and Rena Corey Gessmann. He was baptized May 28, 1929, at the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Defiance. Bill was raised on the farm receiving his formal education in the Nishnabotna Township Rural Schools. Following his schooling he farmed with his father.

April 30, 1948, he married Dorothy Lee Ahrenholtz at the Evangelical Brethren Church at Defiance. Their union was blessed with four children, Wm. Leroy, Larry, Cindy and Lisa. They made their home on a farm at Manilla before moving to Colorado. In 1966, they returned to the farm north of Defiance, where they resided until moving to Denison in 1971. Bill's working years were spent farming and as a truck driver for Farmland Foods until his retirement. Bill and Dorothy spent their retirement years in Denison. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Denison. Bill died March 2, 2003, at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, NE, at age 73 years, 11 months and 12 days.

Including his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Gessmann, who died March 1, 2003; three sisters, Marjorie Carothers, Hazel Volquartsen and Mildred McLaren; and a nephew, Kævan Knudsen. He is survived by his four children, Wm. Leroy Gessmann (Ann) of Grimes; Larry Gessmann (Nancy) of Harlan; Cindy Gessmann of Urbandale; and Lisa (Randy) Clausen of Tampa, FL; seven grandchildren, Lauren, Lindsey, Abbey, Jacob, Joshua, Bailey and Sara; two sisters, Thelma (Norman) Hanssen of Grand Island, NE and Evelyn (Phil) Wenzel of Mountain Home, AR; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 5, 2003, at the First United Methodist Church in Denison, with the Rev. Chrisa Ferguson and the Rev. Ken Ferguson officiating. Casket bearers included Merle Holmes, Dennis Mohr, Richard Hanssen, Robert Carothers, Sylvia Uhl and Bud McLaren. Burial was at Oakland Cemetery in Denison. The Pfannebecker Funeral Home, Denison, in charge of arrangements.