

## Howard Hansen, 84

*Sept. 2, 1917 – Dec. 24, 2001*

**ELK HORN** – Howard Madsen, son of Hans C. and Anna Johanna (Madsen) Hansen, was born Sept. 2, 1917, on what was known as the Hansen Heights Farm located four miles southeast of Elk Horn, in Oakfield Township, Audubon County. He was baptized and confirmed at Elk Horn Lutheran Church. He attended rural school at Oakfield No. 4 in Audubon County through the eighth grade and graduated from Elk Horn High School in 1935. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1942, and became a pilot with the 780th Squadron, flying B-24 bombers on 58 missions over Germany, Italy, Austria and the Balkans during World War II. Following his honorable discharge from the Army July 3, 1945, he returned to the Elk Horn area.

He married Doris Petersen at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, March 20, 1946. Four children were born to this union. They farmed his home place southeast of Elk Horn until 1974, when they moved into Elk Horn. Howard had become the administrator of Salem Lutheran Homes in 1970 and continued in that position until he retired in December of 1983. He was a member of the Elk Horn Lutheran Church and served on the cemetery board. He was a lifetime promoter of Elk Horn and its Danish Heritage. He served as a member of the Danish Mill Corporation Board from 1993 – 1998; spent several years on the Elk Horn-Kimballton School board as a member and president; was a member of Danish Brotherhood; was a 56 year member of American Legion Post 322; served 22 years as director and president of the Danish Mutual Insurance Association; and was instrumental in the establishment of the Danish American Museum where he was a loyal volunteer. After suffering from several strokes, Howard was admitted to the Salem Lutheran Nursing Home where he died from multiple system failures Dec. 24, 2001, at the age of 84 years, three months and 22 days.

Preceding Howard in death were his parents; two sisters, Mildred and husband, Leo Mardesen, and Alice and husband, Harold Beck; brother, Robert Hansen; sister-in-law, Colleen Hansen, and brother-in-law, Raynold Nelson. He is survived by his wife, Doris Hansen of Elk Horn; one daughter, Donna (Doug) Archer of Pleasant Hill; three sons, Alan Hansen of West Des Moines; Eddy Hansen (Connie) of Orient and Steve Hansen (Debby) of Davenport; nine grandchildren, Jon, Jason and Andrew Archer; Heather and David Hansen; Jenny and Jena Hansen; Stacy (Andy) Bramstedt and Holly Stewart; three great grandchildren, Jesyka and Savanna Bramstedt and Alexis Stewart; sister, Della Nelson of Elk Horn; brother, Harvey Hansen (Priscilla) of Atlantic; sister-in-law, Helen Hansen of Atlantic; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 28, 2001, at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church with Pastor Mike Williams officiating. Burial was in the Elk Horn Lutheran Cemetery with military honors conducted by the American Legion Post 322. Honorary casket bearers were Ross Mardesen and Charles Beck. Casket bearers were Jon Archer, David Hansen, Jason Archer, Kent Hansen, Andrew Archer and Bob Hansen. Ohde Funeral Home, Kimballton, in charge of arrangements.