

J. Dean Jorgensen, 88

Dec. 25, 1915 - Nov. 11, 2004

FAIRFIELD BAY, AR — J. Dean Jorgensen was born Dec. 25, 1915, in Ceylon, MN.

Dean served as general manager of the Nishnabotna Valley REC from 1948 until his retirement in 1978. Prior to becoming manager at Nishnabotna Valley REC, he was office manager for the REC in Clarion. He served his country in the Navy from 1943 to 1946, spending one year in the South Pacific. After his discharge from the Navy, he returned to Clarion. He became the manager at Nishnabotna Valley REC in 1948. He was an expert equestrian owning two beautiful riding horses, earned a private pilot license, and was a Mason, Elk, Shriner, Honorary 4-H and FFA Member. He was vice-president of the Industrial Board, secretary then president of Nipco Power Company Managers Association of Iowa. He also served as a member of Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Commission for four years at the will of Iowa's Governor Ray. In 1960 and 1961 Dean was secretary of Iowa Power Use Committee, was a 6-year Board member of Fairfield Bay Community Club, a director of Arkansas Rural Electric Coop of Little Rock, and Board member of Petit Jean Electric Coop in Clinton for 10 years. In 1942 he was honored by Mutual of Omaha for saving the life of a fellow lineman while both were working on a "hot phone wire" after the worker was electrocuted. He was an avid and experienced hunter and fisherman, and served on the Golf Advisory Committee of Indian Hills Golf Club of Fairfield Bay. Dean and friend, Shriner Ray Allen, were the designers and instigators of the first Shriner's Golf-A-Rama at Fairfield Bay, which evolved into an instant successful money making project for the Shriner's Children's Hospital in Tennessee. He retired from Nishnabotna Valley REC in 1978. He died Nov. 11, 2004, from complications of Alzheimer's disease and pneumonia at Fairfield Bay, AR, at age 88.

Dean is survived by his wife, June of Fairfield Bay, AR; son, Roger (Barbara) of Omaha, NE; daughter, Lois of Fairfield, Bay, AR; a grandson and granddaughter of Omaha, NE; and three great-grandchildren.