

Don Larimore, 87

Nov. 4, 1919 - Aug. 29, 2007

AVOCA — Don Arthur Larimore was born in Avoca, Nov. 4, 1919, in the third house north of the United Church which has now been torn down. He was the son of Arthur and Elsie (Schilling) Larimore and was one of four children in the family. His family moved to Monroe, NE and that is where he grew up and attended school, graduating in 1937. Don and his family returned to Avoca later in 1937. He worked around the area for various farmers and also worked for the Rock Island Railroad and the Gamble Store. Don enlisted in the Navy in 1941 and was sent to Idaho for his boot training. He later received a medical discharge because of an injury he had sustained at age 19. He then went to California to work for Douglas Aircraft, building airplanes. When the war began, Don helped build war planes and bombers.

While in California, Don married Harriet Applegate April 14, 1941, in Venice. They had met previously in Oakland, Harriet's hometown. They were married for 63 years until Hattie died May 12, 2004. Don and Hattie returned to the Avoca area and Don bought a cream route, working for the Avoca Creamery for 18 years. After selling his route, he purchased the Avoca Bowling Lanes and they both worked there for 19 years. It was sold and Don worked as a rural mail carrier until he retired in 1984. Don was a member of the United Church of Avoca. He was also a member of the Pottawattamie County Last Man's Club, never missing a meeting. He has been a member of the Avoca American Legion Post since 1941. Don has been a resident of the Avoca Lodge Assisted Living for about a year and that is where he died Aug. 29, 2007, at age 87 years, nine months and 25 days.

Don was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Hattie. He is survived by three sisters, Phyllis Bintz (Earl) of Neola; Robin Thomsen (Beaner) of Kimballton; and Colleen Rutenbeck of Des Moines; nieces and nephews, Gale Bintz, Becky Jacobsen, Mary Lefeber, Collette Rutenbeck, Charles Rutenbeck, Cris Briger, Lori Petters, Dawri Schueman, Sally Jacobsen, George Applegate, Cynthia Applegate, Shirlee Matthews, Nancy Stout, Donna Jo Price and Brian Applegate; many great-nieces and great-nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 1, 2007, at the United Church of Avoca, with Pastor Nancy Ross-Hullinger officiating. Casket bearers were Paul Petters, George Applegate, Wayne Jacobsen, Dave Schueman, Gale Bintz and Charles Rutenbeck. Military rites were given by the American Legion Fred Funston Post No. 227 of Avoca. Burial was held in the Graceland Cemetery, Avoca. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca, in charge of arrangements.