

Elmer Larsen, 95

July 17, 1907 - Nov. 26, 2002

HARLAN – Elmer “Sparky” Christian Larsen was born to Peter and Amella “Mollie” (Johnson) Larsen July 17, 1907, at Jacksonville. He was baptized and confirmed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church near Jacksonville, and attended the Jacksonville Township School. As a young man, he assisted his parents on their farm and in their general store.

Sparky met his future bride at the Shelby County Fairgrounds, and Oct. 1, 1929, he married Margaret “Muggs” Sorenson at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. Two children were born to this union. After their marriage, Sparky farmed in Polk Township moving to Harlan, in 1935, to operate a service station. By 1939, he owned two service stations in Harlan. He continued their operation for several years owning the business and leasing out the stations the last few years. In 1950, he returned to farming until his retirement in 1955. Following retirement, Sparky and Muggs spent their summers at Lake Okoboji and their winters in Brownville, TX. He later became a resident of the Assisted Living Apartments in the Elm Crest Retirement Community and was currently residing at the Dunlap Care And Rehabilitation Center. He was a past member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, and currently a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan where he was very active serving on numerous church boards. He was a very active and progressive businessman. Sparky died Nov. 26, 2002, at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, at age 95 years, four months and 10 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret, May 27, 1989; brothers, Raymond, Leonard, Arnold and George Larsen; and his stepbrother, Henry Rasmussen. He is survived by his son, Dwayne Larsen (Jacqueline) of Avoca; and daughter, Phyllis Nelsen of Omaha, NE; five grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Nov. 30, 2002, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, with the Revs. Jon Benson and Heather Ploen officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Kirk Nelsen, Leroy Larsen, Brad Nelsen, Bruce Nelsen, Todd Larsen and Denny Hardy casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.