

# Lavern Leinen, 81

May 5, 1916 - Feb. 6, 1998

**DOW CITY** - Lavern Peter Leinen, the eldest son of Nicholas and Agnes Kenkel Leinen, was born in Portsmouth, May 5, 1916, and died Feb. 6, 1998, at age 81 years. As a young boy, Lavern and his parents, brothers and sisters moved to Earling where the family was engaged in farming and the family produce business. In 1942, he enlisted in the Navy where he spent three years. He saw combat in the South Pacific and was awarded numerous medals and citations.

Sept. 14, 1946, he married Estelle Busch at St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church in Chicago, IL. The following March they moved to Dow City, where they owned Leinen's Produce and Creamery and farmed. He was also an employee of Farmland Foods in Denison, for many years.

Besides his wife, Estelle, he is survived by three sons and three daughters, Philip of Dow City; Larry (Judy) of Denison; Mrs. James (Mary) Jostes of Boise, ID; Vincent of Reseda, CA; Mrs. Lee (Joan) Gould of Chicago, IL; and Mrs. Hank (Dee) Shaw of Topanga, CA; 14 grandchildren and two great grandsons. Also surviving are five sisters and three brothers, Mrs. Ivo (Lavina) Blum; Celie Buckley and Irene Mahlberg of Earling; Mrs. Ken (Sally) Dillemoth of Pahrump, NV; Mrs. Ed (Rosemary) Rehberg of Cedar Rapids; Leo Leinen (Margie) of Omaha; Alfred Leinen (Joan) of Earling; Ed Leinen (Carol) of Harlan, and one sister-in-law, Bernadette Leinen of Dunlap.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Feb. 9, 1998, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Dow City, with Father Benjamin Jensen and Father John Cain celebrants with burial at the Dow City Cemetery, Dow City. Casket bearers were Darrell Mahlberg, Richard Buckley, Larry Schwarte, Alan Leinen, Dennis Leinen and Gail Leinen. Military honors were by American Legion Post No. 44, Dow City. Huebner Funeral Home in Denison in charge of arrangements.