

## **Erik A. Olsen, 79**

**Oct. 23, 1917 - June 17, 1997**

**AVOCA** - Erik Andrew Olsen was born in Fresno, CA Oct. 23, 1917, son of Lauritz and Marie Ericksen Olsen. At age three Erik's family moved to Denmark, where they lived until 1926, when they returned to the United States. They settled in Co. Bluffs, until 1927 when they moved to the Avoca area. They lived on several farms in the area.

He married Muriel Christensen April 24, 1943, at Papillion, NE. They made their home on a farm between Walnut and Avoca. They were the parents of four children. They retired from farming and moved to Avoca in 1968. In January of 1969, he was named as Justice of the Peace in Avoca. He eventually was appointed Magistrate. All together he served the community on the bench for some 12 1/2 years. He also drove a school bus for 20 years. He has served on the Park Board since 1985, and was still serving in that capacity. He was a member of the Mt. Nebo Masonic Lodge, the Avoca Rotary Club and the Trinity Lutheran Church where he has served on the church council. He has been an enthusiastic member of the community and has been active in numerous other organizations over the years. He died suddenly of an apparent heart attack June 17, 1997, at age 79 years, seven months and 24 days.

He was preceded in death by his father, a brother, Lawrence, and a daughter, Arlene. He is survived by his wife, Muriel; a daughter, Helene (Dick) Peterson of Dunlap, IL; two sons, Larry Olsen (Sally) of Treynor and Harry Olsen (Kay) of Glenwood; eight grandchildren; one great grandson; his mother, Marie Jorgensen; two brothers, Stanley Olsen (Mary Ann) and Ronald Olsen (Beverly) all living in Omaha; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 20, 1997, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Avoca, with Pastor Bengtson and Lay Assistant Wayne Paulson officiating. Burial was in Graceland Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Lawrence Gronborg, Delno Holtz, Norman Trede, Harry Roberson, Earl Foster and Gerald Peck. Casket bearers were John Olsen, Lawrence Olsen, Don Nelsen, Jim Olsen, Jerry Mez and Edwin Weis. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements: