

Harlan, Iowa News advertiser

Friday December 30, 1994, pg 11-A

Bert Rudolph Plahn, 78

May 9, 1916 - Dec. 13, 1994 ✓

Avoca - Bert Rudolph Plahn was born on a farm south of Avoca May 9, 1916, the son of Rudolph and Emma Peters Plahn. He attended the Newton School and graduated from the Avoca High School in 1933.

He married Helen Muschall Feb. 22, 1941 at Neola. They farmed the home place south of town and he was proud that it was named a Century Farm in 1991. They were the parents of three daughters. He was a Newtown School Director, Farm Bureau Director, Agriculture Superintendent of the East Pottawattamie County Fair since 1959 and served as a member of the Historical Society. They moved to Avoca in 1979 and for a number of years after moving to town, he was a caretaker at the Graceland cemetery in Avoca. He was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca. He died at his home in Avoca Dec. 13, 1994 at age 78 years, 7 months and 4 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents, an infant brother and a sister, Josephine Plahn. He is survived by his wife Helen, their three daughters; Marlene (Robert) Secrest of Denver, CO, Kathleen (Larry) Knudsen of Atlantic and Carolyn (Harley) Spencer of Avoca, 7 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 16, 1994 at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Avoca with Pastor Paul Bengtson and Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were: Orvie Fischer, Ernest Mohr, R.W. "Dick" Dea, Ernest Wendt, Wilbert Jacobsen and Richard Sievers. Casket bearers were: Gary Albers, Ronald Young, Gene Mohr, Harry Priest, Dean Henning and Wayne Jacobsen. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.