

Billy Ploen, 71

March 2, 1926 - Dec. 17, 1997

MINDEN - Billy Dean Ploen was born in Minden, March 2, 1926. He was the son of Ernst and Minnie Luchsinger Ploen and was one of four children in the family. He attended school in Minden and graduated in 1944. He served with the Army Air Corps during World War II. Following the war, he worked with his dad as a barber in Minden.

He married Evelyn Driver Nov. 8, 1945. They were the parents of five children, JoLeen, Steve, Michael, Maribeth and Tim. They made their home in Minden. He was employed as an electrician in the Omaha area, working for E.A. Pedersen and H.K. Scholz. He retired in 1986. She died Oct. 29, 1983. He was a member of the Minden American Legion Post #437 and the Minden United Church of Christ. He died at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Co. Bluffs, Dec. 17, 1997, at age 71 years, nine months and 15 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Evelyn; and two brothers, Kenneth and Virgil. He is survived by his children, JoLeen Sanders of Co. Bluffs; Steve Ploen (Marcia) of Minden; Rev. Michael Ploen (Renee) of Harlan; Maribeth (Roger) Dau and Tim Ploen (Staci) all of Minden, 14 grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; a sister, Phyllis (Harold) Caskey of Bella Vista, AR; a special friend, Shirley Quirk of Minden; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 19, 1997, at the Minden United Church of Christ, Minden, with Rev. Richard Hempenius officiating. Burial was in the Minden Cemetery with military graveside services by the Minden American Legion Post #437. Honorary casket bearers were Ron Coffman, Gus Hartje, Raymond Wendt and Gordon Knott. Casket bearers were Shawn Ploen, Joshua Dau, Andy Rasmussen, Chad Heilig, Darin Shriver and Jay Dollen and Raymond Keller, Jr. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.