



THE LIFE STORY OF —

John Van Asselt, 68

Gerrit John Van Asselt, son of immigrant parents from Holland, Henry and Toonji Zandbergen Van Asselt was born Dec. 31, 1915 at Alton. He was baptized and confirmed in the Dutch Reformed church at Alton. Later he was in the C.C. Camp at Bancroft. He attended Sioux City School of Barbering and came to Irwin as an apprentice barber in Sept., 1939, working for L.H. Yost.

On July 14, 1940 he married Helen Rad-

den at Irwin. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II for three years. In 1945 he went into partnership with Mr Yost and later was sole proprietor of the barber shop after Mr Yost's death.

John, also known as Dutch was on the Irwin Fire Dept. for over 30 years, belonged to the Irwin Rescue Unit, American Legion, served on the town council, was Jefferson twp. clerk for many years and was U.S. official local weather observer. He had been an active member of the United Methodist church, sang in the choir, taught Sunday school, and was Sunday school superintendent.

He will be remembered as Santa Claus at church, homes and various clubs. He died on Monday, Aug. 20, 1984 at the St. Joseph hospital in Omaha at the age of 68 years, 7 months and 19 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister in infancy, a sister, Anna Huisman and brother Francis. Survivors include his wife Helen; two daughters Joan, Mrs Ed Osborne of Floodwood, Minn. and Linda, Mrs Louis Tomsu of Omaha; four grandchildren, Annette, Caleb and Linda Osborne and Joshua Tomsu. He is also survived by a sister, Gertrude, Mrs Ernest Loewen of Alton; two brothers, Henry of Bowie, Md. and Franklin of Parker, S.D.; several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Friday, Aug. 24, 1984 at the United Methodist church in Irwin with Rev. Walt Bernard officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill cemetery at Irwin with Bud Knudson, Louie Hansen, Mayer Knudson and John L. Steenhusen as honorary bearers and Allyn Erb, Virgil Carter, William Shannon, Carl Armentrout, Gordon Pedersen and John V. Anderson serving as casketbearers.