

## Ingward Christian Bro, 86

June 21, 1913 - April 11, 2000

**EXIRA** - Ingward Christian Bro was born June 21, 1913, at his parents' farmhouse in southern Guthrie County. He was the third of 12 children born to Niels and Laura (Bork) Bro, Danish immigrants who came to Iowa to marry, raise a family and farm. Ingward began school with his older twin brothers, Art and Arnold. Together, they taught one another how to speak English and learn with the other students in their one-room country schoolhouse. Raised in the faith of the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ingward was confirmed at Bethany Lutheran in Kimballton. Following completion of the eighth grade, he left school to work as a hired hand. After several years, he went back to school, earned his high school diploma and teaching certificate at Iowa State Teachers' College in Cedar Falls. He taught, coached, drove school bus, and was a school administrator at several schools in southwest Iowa before the war brought an end to his teaching career. June 3, 1942, he joined the 8th Army Air Corps, stationed in England during World War II. In 1945, the Red Cross notified Ingward that his father had died and he was honorably discharged July 25, 1945. He came home and worked the family farm 7 miles west of Exira in Sharon Township, Audubon County. He bought this farm and his mother moved to Exira in 1947.

June 7, 1947, he married Lillian Eleanor Levisen in her home church of Trinity Lutheran in Albert Lea, MN. Returning back to Iowa, they farmed and raised a family of five children. He was active in the Exira Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Brotherhood Fraternal Organization and the Danish Brotherhood. He served for a time on the Audubon County School Board. Building terraces on his land won him awards in soil conservation. In 1975, they retired from farming and built a new home in Exira. Lillian died in 1995. Ingward continued to live in the house on North Jefferson until August of 1999, when he moved to an apartment at the Friendship Home in Audubon. During February of this year, his health began to fail. He was hospitalized in Audubon, Omaha and Des Moines and returned to the Friendship Home in March. He died April 11, 2000, at age 86 years, nine months and 20 days.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lillian; his parents; his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Art Mulholland, Roger Moen, Thorvald and Irene Levisen, Doris Levisen, Lorraine Levisen and Edmund Crovo. Survivors include his children, Pat (Ivan) Paulsen of Folsom, CA; Doug (Glenda) of Claremont, CA; Susan McCloud of Altoona; and her friend, Bill Albright of Urbandale; Bruce Bro (Mary) of Harlan and Mike Bro (Mary Jo) of Bedford, TX; grandchildren, Craig Paulsen (Julie) of Mountain View, CA; Jennifer Paulsen of Folsom; Andrew Bro and Paul Bro, both of Claremont; Liz McCloud of Des Moines; Ben McCloud of Cedar Falls; Cristy McCloud of Altoona; Justin Bro and Becky Bro, both of Harlan; Melissa Bro and Mitchell Bro, both of Bedford. Eleven surviving brothers and sisters include: Arnold (Elsie) of Exira; Arthur (Erna) of Exira; Howard (Muriel) of Montour; Manville (Marjorie) of Wilimington, DE; H.E. (Edwin) (Constance) of Fulshear, TX; Mervin of Scottsdale, AZ; Sigrid Crovo of Lakeland, FL; Leona Whitty (Tom) of Belmond; Velma Moen of Austin, MN; Franklin (Ora Mae) of Toledo and Ronald (Mary) of Parkersburg; his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Helen (Norval) Nelson; Arnold (Enna) Levisen; Earl (Maurice) Levisen; Donald Levisen; Paul (Ruth) Levisen; Myron (Patricia) Levisen, all of Alberta Lea, MN; nieces, nephews and other relatives and a special friend, Lucille Kjergaard of Audubon.

Funeral services were held April 15, 2000, at the Exira Lutheran Church. Casket bearers were grandsons, Craig Paulsen, Andrew Bro, Ben McCloud, Justin Bro, Paul Bro and Mitchell Bro. Burial was in the Exira Cemetery. Kessler Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.