

Merle Edwin Deupree, 78

Sept. 17, 1917 - May 25, 1996

LYONS, NE - Merle Edwin Deupree was born Sept. 17, 1917, son of Roy and Dora (Dohrman) Deupree, at Persia. The family moved to Omaha in 1919 and back to Persia in 1932 where he graduated from high school in 1935.

He married Darlene Smith April 10, 1943 and they farmed with his father near Persia until 1948 when they moved to Lyons, NE where he farmed until retiring in 1985. He was baptized at Trinity Lutheran in Persia and confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran in Omaha. He was also a member of St. John's Lutheran in Persia and 1st Lutheran at Oakland, NE until transferring to Bethany Lutheran in Lyons in 1960. He had been a member of the Masonic Lodge, assisted with Boy Scouts and 4-H, also served on the Lyons Cemetery Board and the Lyons School Board. He died at Dodge County Memorial Hospital in Fremont, NE May 25, 1996 at age 78.

He was preceded in death by his mother in 1979, his father in March of 1981 and a sister, Thelma Johnson in 1976. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Darlene; daughter, Carole (Dennis) Blankenbeckler of Brady, NE; Merlene Paul of Grand Island, NE; Beverly (John) Gustafson of Kearney, NE and son, James (Jill) of Omaha; one brother, Carl (Melinda) Deupree of Co. Bluffs; one sister, Alice Scholl of West Point, NE; a brother-in-law, Veral (Dorothy) Smith of Persia and Dr. M.C. Johnson of San Diego, CA; eight grandchildren; four great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at the Bethany Lutheran Church in Lyons, NE May 28, 1996 with Pastor Donald A. Holm officiating. Casket bearers were nephews, Raymond and Marvin Scholl, Dwain and Arlon Deupree and Robert and Jack Smith. Burial was in the Lyons Cemetery. Piper Funeral Home of Lyons in charge of arrangements.