

John Erickson, 71

Sept. 9, 1934 - Oct. 7, 2005

HARLAN — John Richard Erickson, son of Floyd Byron and Lucille Frances Erickson, was born Sept. 9, 1934, in Harlan. He was baptized and confirmed at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan. He attended country school at Lincoln No. 8 through the eighth grade and graduated from the Harlan Community High School.

Jan. 6, 1957, John married Verna Mae Nelson at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin. Three children were born to this union, Michael, Jill, and infant son. After their marriage, John and Verna farmed in Shelby County. He continued his employment with the United States Postal Service as a clerk and city route and rural route carrier. He took great pride in serving his patrons for over forty years, retiring in 1997. John was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan. During this time he also farmed. He was also active in the Shelby County Fair, the Jaycees and the Shelby County Speedway. Oct. 7, 2005, John died at his home in Harlan at age 71 years and 28 days.

In addition to his father, John was preceded in death by his infant son and his brother, Dale Erickson. Survivors include his wife, Verna Erickson of Harlan; his children, Michael Erickson and his special friend, Juanita Holaday of Elk Horn; Jill (David) Pappa of Sawyer, MI; his mother, Lucille Erickson of Harlan; three grandchildren, Dan Erickson of Harlan; Jana Erickson of Harlan; and Jacquilyn Erickson of Harlan, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 11, 2005, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, with Rev. Heather Ploen officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Jana Erickson, Jacquilyn Erickson, David Pappa, Carol Walso, Juanita Holaday, and Norman Walso honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Bob Brue, Roger Erickson, Jeff Nelson, Scott Nelson, Daniel Erickson, and Erwin Erickson. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

