

James Howard Fehl, 86

Nov. 7, 1909 - Sept. 3, 1996

AVOCA - James Howard Fehl was born Nov. 7, 1909 in Ortley, SD. He was the son of Walter and Zoe Duncan Fehl and was one of eleven children born to that union. His parents were both killed in a railroad crossing accident in Jan. of 1944. He came to Iowa as a young man around 1931, to find work and help harvest for his aunt and uncle. Hancock was the home of his grandparents and parents until they decided to move to South Dakota. He worked for area farmers until he saved enough money to begin farming for himself.

He married Iletha Marguerite Miller Nov. 6, 1939, in Carson. They began their married life on a farm east of Hancock. In 1944 they moved to the Wes King farm near Hancock. They were the parents of two children, Judith Eileen and James Edwin. She died July 23, 1961. In 1963, he purchased the Priest farm south of Hancock. He also worked in Oakland for the East Pottawattamie Soil Conservation Service. He retired from that position in 1975, and was then able to do some traveling and visit with his brothers and sisters. He died Sept. 3, 1996, at Colonial Manor Nursing Home in Avoca, at age 86 years, 9 months and 27 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Marguerite; seven brothers and sisters, Vayda Fehl, Zella Crooks, Ina Fehl, Jeanette Westlund, Daryl Fehl, Jeane Fehl and a brother who died at birth and his son-in-law, Larry Buboltz. He is survived by his children, Judith Buboltz of Avoca and James Fehl (Linda) of Indianola; six grandchildren; four great grandchildren; two sisters, Florence Davis of Camas, WA and Iola Hopkins of Wilmot, SD, and one brother, Kenneth Fehl of Lebanon Junction, KY; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 6, 1996, at the Knutson Funeral Chapel, Avoca with Mr. Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Hancock. Casket bearers were Don Buboltz, Brian Buboltz, Matthew Fehl, Nathan Fehl, Marvin Travis and Kelly McMartin.