

John M. Holder, 72

WESTPHALIA — John Meredith Holder was born Jan. 3, 1915, to Edwin Carter Holder and Mary Belfrage Holder in Sgts. Bluff, IA, joining one brother, Milo Belfrage Holder. During his first marriage to Ardith Knepper in Sioux City; his daughter, Jackie Kay, was born.

He married Lois Arlene (Sellman) Irvine March 21, 1947, gaining a step-son, James Herbert Irvine. To this union were born two daughters and one son, Linda Lee, Patricia Lynn, and Carter Milo; one granddaughter; three step-grandchildren and one step-great-grandson.

He spent many years in various fields of work, including laying an oil pipeline from Kansas to Minnesota, helping build the ALCAN highway in Alaska, driving for Greyhound Charter Coach for the military during WW II, working as an explosives technician for an oil-exploration business in Corpus Christi, TX, and in management of various businesses in Sioux City, Co. Bluffs, Omaha and Bellevue, NE. He was the manager of the House of Music store in Harlan, and drove for Reid busline for several years until he turned 62 and semi-retired in 1977, at which time he became a bus driver for the Harlan Community School system, until his final retirement at age 70 in 1985.

Shortly after moving from Harlan to Westphalia in 1978, he was elected Mayor of the community after serving a partial term on a vacated council position. He was re-elected for two more terms. He was a member of the First Methodist Church in Sgts. Bluff, a charter member of the Moose Lodge in Corpus Christi, TX, served on several civic and county boards for Shelby County, was an active member of the Happy Hour Senior Citizens' Club of Westphalia, and a member of the Westphalia Fire Dept.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, father, mother and brother.

He died on Jan. 2, 1988, just one day before his 73rd birthday at age 72 years.

Memorial services were held Friday, Jan. 8, 1988 at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia with Fr. Glenn Rankin and Fr. Bud Grant officiating.