

Melvin A. Holtz, 73

AVOCA — Melvin Arthur Fred Holtz was born near Avoca on April 14, 1914. He was the son of Herman and Ida Rock Holtz. He was one of four children in the family. He attended school at Avoca. He and his brother, Lawrence, operated a Pontiac Dealership in Avoca for a number of years until 1941 when he went into the Army. He served in the Army until 1946. He distinguished himself in the service by inventing a process for desludging airplane motors. For this process he received the Distinguished Service Medal.

He married Mary Jorgensen on Feb. 11, 1946 at St. Joseph, MO. Upon returning to Avoca after WWII he and Lawrence operated a Ford Tractor Dealership for a number of years. He worked for Olesen Chevrolet-Oldsmobile for many years until his retirement in 1976. During the next six years he helped with the farming operation of Loring Lippold's. He was an avid sportsman and enjoyed hunting, fishing and trapping. He was a member of the Trinity Lutheran church and the Fred Funston American Legion Post No. 227 of Avoca.

He died at Jennie Edmundson hospital in Co. Bluffs on July 26, 1987 at age 73 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and survived by his wife, Mary; two brothers, Elmer and Lawrence both of Avoca and one sister, Esther (Mrs William) Groepper of Bozeman, MT besides nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were July 28, 1987 at Trinity Lutheran church in Avoca with Pastor Harold Peterson, officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery, Avoca with Glen Ramage, George Applegate, Douglas Holtz, Larry Anderson, Brad Blome and John Petersen serving as casket bearers. Berthusen-Knutson Funeral Home, Avoca was in charge of arrangements.