

Elmer Harder, 85

March 6, 1915 – Feb. 12, 2001

OAKLAND – Elmer Charles Harder was born near Avoca, March 6, 1915, the son of Louie and Lena Thomsen Harder, and was one of two children in the family. He graduated from Avoca High School in 1932.

He married Leah Brindley March 2, 1941, at the German Lutheran Church in Avoca. They were the parents of a daughter, Judy. They farmed for 18 years southwest of Avoca, before moving into Avoca in 1959. Six months after moving to Avoca, Elmer started working for VanNostrand Grain Company. When VanNostrand opened another office in Oakland, he began working there. In 1971, Elmer and Leah moved to Council Bluffs, and in 1979 they moved to Oakland, where they made their home. He continued to work at the Oakland Feeding Corporation, formerly VanNostrands. He died at the Cass County Memorial Hospital in Atlantic, Feb. 12, 2001, at age 85 years, 11 months and 22 days.

Elmer was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Leah, who died Jan. 11, 1988. He is survived by his daughter, Judy (Henry) Brink of Syracuse, MO; one brother, Clarence Harder (Delores) of Avoca; one grandson, Stanley Brink of Jacksonville, FL; three great grandchildren; two sisters-in-law, Neoma Ridlen of Griswold and Jerry Brindley of Hempstead, TX; and a special friend, Adele Pedersen of Walnut; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 15, 2001, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Avoca, with Pastor John Rinde and Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Casket bearers were Paul Harder, Louie Harder, Mason Ridlen, Jeff Harder, Dean Hildebrand and Stanley Brink. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.