

Lawrence A. "Dutch" Holtz, 85

April 10, 1912 - May 3, 1997 ✓

AVOCA - Lawrence Alfred Holtz was born near Avoca, April 10, 1912, son of Herman and Ida Rock Holtz, and was one of four children in the family. He was baptized and confirmed in the Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca and attended school in Avoca.

He married Edith Kelgard June 28, 1932, in Omaha, NE. They were the parents of two sons, David and Douglas. "Dutch" was a longtime businessman in Avoca. He worked as a mechanic at Olesen Chevrolet and at the Avoca Motors before he purchased the Ford Tractor dealership and the Pontiac Agency, which his sons operated after his retirement. He was also active in the building and selling of real estate and was also engaged in farming. He was a member of the Avoca Fire Department for over 25 years and served as both Chief and President of the department. His wife, Edith, died Jan. 27, 1973. He made his home in Avoca except for the past several years which he has spent in the Baptist Memorial Home where he died May 3, 1997, at age 85 years and 23 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Edith; a granddaughter and two brothers, Melvin and Elmer. He is survived by his sons, David Holtz (Janie) of Sedona, AZ and Douglas Holtz (Iva Marie) of Avoca; four grandchildren, Cindy Holtz, Tara (Jamie) Knudsen, Jerece Cheers and Candace Gardner; seven great grandchildren, Tyler and Terin Griffen, Ryder Cheers, Alysha, Chandra and Brayden Knudsen and Alexandra McPherren; one sister, Esther (Bill) Groepper of Bozeman, MT; a foster sister, Elise Rock Johnson of Des Moines; a sister-in-law, Mary Holtz of Oakland; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 7, 1997, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Avoca, with Pastor Paul Bengtson and Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Casket bearers were Daryle Bailey, Delno Holtz, Fred Miller, Jr., Robert Andersen, Milton Hanson and Donald Pash. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.