

Harry Johnson, 92

Jan. 30, 1909 - Feb. 23, 2001

AVOCA - Harry John Christian Johnson was born Jan. 30, 1909, at Avoca, son of Nels Frederick and Laura Christensen Johnson. He attended school at Fairview No. 8 in Shelby County, where he graduated from the 8th grade, after which he helped with the farming. In 1925, Harry's father had a severe stroke leaving him paralyzed so Harry, at the young age of 16 years, continued the farming and custom threshing operation for his mother until his father's death in 1930. He was baptized and confirmed in the Danish Lutheran Church, now the Trinity Lutheran Church.

March 16, 1931, he married Myrtle Poulsen and they continued living on the family farm, which they purchased in 1959. Through the years he developed a mechanical and welding skill and had a shop on the farm. Neighbors from far and near brought their machinery there for repair. In 1975, they sold the farm and moved to Avoca. During his retirement years Harry did woodworking. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1981. Myrtle died Jan. 24, 1989. In July of 1997, Harry had a lawn mower accident injuring his back and as a result entered the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center in August, and with his failing eyesight, remained there until his death. He died Feb. 23, 2001, at the Center at age 92 years and 24 days.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Myrtle; a son, Frederick Paul Johnson, who died at age 28 from Hodgkin's Disease; and brother-in-law, Ernest Andersen. He is survived by one sister, Lillian Andersen of Avoca; a daughter-in-law, Helen Jane Johnson; a granddaughter, Teresa Johnson, and her son, Nickolas Frederick Johnson, all of Albion, IL; one grandson, Paul Ray Johnson (Dana) of Danville, IL; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 27, 2001, at the Trinity Lutheran Church with Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Casket bearers were Robert Andersen, Charlie Allen, Terry Gleaves, Lowell Andersen, Glen Lassen and John Harding. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.