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## **Leo F. Mardesen, 83**

**July 24, 1907 — Feb. 18, 1991**

**EXIRA** – Leo F. Mardesen, son of Ed and Sena Esbeck Mardesen, was born July 24, 1907 in Audubon county, and died Feb. 18, 1991 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Omaha, NE., at age 83 years, 6 months, and 24 days. He was baptized and confirmed at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church. He attended rural schools and graduated from the Elk Horn High School in 1927. He attended Iowa State University in Ames, for two years study animal husbandry. He then returned to Exira, and drove a cream truck for the Exira Creamery for several years.

June 12, 1935, he married Mildred Hansen at her parents' home southeast of Elk Horn. One son was born to this union. They farmed southeast of Elk Horn. Mildred died Sept. 2, 1940. He returned to help operate the family farm east of Elk Horn.

Jan. 7, 1950 he married Ethel Jessen Hocamp at the Exira Lutheran Church. They farmed south of Brayton, they purchased a farm east of Exira, which they operated until they retired. They moved into Exira where they presently live. He was an active member of the Exira Lutheran Church and served on several different church boards and committees. He was a member of the Exira Lions Club and served as president and treasurer and served on various community committees and boards.

Preceding him in death in addition to his first wife were his parents; one brother, Merlyn Mardesen; and his brother-in-law, Stewart Osterholm. Survivors include his wife, Ethel Mardesen of Exira; one son, Ross (Mary Jane) Mardesen of Elk Horn; step-daughters, Donna Bjorn of Atlantic, and Opal (Donald) Nelson of Pasadena, TX.; one grandson; 9 step-grandchildren; 14 step-great grandchildren; one brother, Vernon (Grace) Mardesen of Elk Horn; 1 sister, Evelyn Osterholm of Glenwood; 1 sister-in-law, Rose Mardesen of Colorado Springs, CO.; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Lyle C. Lutz Feb. 22, 1991 at the Exira Lutheran Church. Burial was in the Exira cemetery. Casketbearers were James Lee, Darrell Mardesen, Leon Mardesen, Gene Mardesen, LaMar Osterholm, and Lynn Osterholm. Kessler Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.