

## Ronald Mortensen, 69

*Aug. 31, 1931 – Feb. 1, 2001*

**WALNUT** – Ronald LeRoy Mortensen was born Aug. 31, 1931, in Shelby, son of Carl and Elsie Sarah Christina Green Balster Mortensen, and was one of six children in the family. He attended school in Shelby and graduated from Shelby High School in 1949.

He married Avis Marie Richards in Shelby, May 18, 1952. They were the parents of two children, a son, Richard, and a daughter, Linda. He farmed near Shelby until moving to a farm north of Walnut, in February of 1954. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Walnut and was active as a Elder, Sunday School superintendent, secretary, longtime choir member and for the past several years he had sung with the Neola Community Choir. Ronald served on the Walnut Community School Board for 15 years, serving as president for many of those years. He also served on the committee to build the addition. He was an active member of many farm organizations. He had worked for Knutson Funeral Home for the past seven years. Ronald died at his residence in Walnut, Feb. 1, 2001, as the result of a farm accident at age 69 years, five months and one day.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Avis of Walnut; a son, Richard Mortensen (Sue) of Griswold, and their children, Bradley, David and Jennifer; a daughter, Linda Linden of Atlantic, and a son-in-law, Gale Linden of Elk Horn, and their children, Jill, (Dave) Niklasen of Petersen and Alan Linden of Lamoni; a great grandson, Zade Niklasen; a sister, Rose (Keith) Kay of Council Bluffs; four brothers, Ted Balster (Kay) of Clarinda; Hugh Mortensen (Wilma) and Bob Mortensen (Lois), all of Harlan; and George Mortensen (Pat) of Shelby; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 4, 2001, at the Walnut School Gymnasium with Pastor Craig zumBrunnen officiating. Burial was in the Shelby Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Henry Nash, Vernon Paasch, Harold Lansman, Robert Kixmiller, Sr., Ralph Hansen, Wayne Petersen and Everette Lamar. Casket bearers were Alan Linden, David Niklasen, Eugene Clayton, Donald Hansen, Rich Hester and Gale Linden. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.