

Leo Nielsen, 75

Jan. 19, 1928 - Dec. 17, 2003

AVOCA – Leo Martin Nielsen, the son of Martin W. and Isabelle E. Jensen Nielsen, was born Jan. 19, 1928, in rural Harlan and was baptized at the Altamont Baptist Church in rural Harlan. He attended Harlan school until the eleventh grade when he entered the United States Army.

Leo married Clarabel Richards Dec. 12, 1948, and they were the parents of one daughter, Connie. After her sudden death in May 1951, Leo married Mariann K. VonTersch Nov. 14, 1951, in Harvey, IL, and to this union three children were born, Calvin, Carrie and Colleen. Leo farmed his entire life before retiring in 1993. He died Dec. 17, 2003, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 75 years, 10 months and 29 days.

In addition to his parents, Leo was preceded in death by his first wife, Clarabel, and a step grandson, Joshua Clark. Survivors include his wife, Mariann of Avoca; his children, Connie (David) Clark of Redfield; Calvin (Diane) Nielsen of Harlan; Carrie (Gerry) Greve of Elk Horn; and Colleen (Richard) Cox of Omaha, NE; seven grandchildren, Amy (Barry) Urquhart of Redfield; Becca (Mike) Kent of Redfield; Doug Greve and his fiancée, Mary Cowsky of Iowa City; Kevin Greve (Amanda) of Walnut; Stephanie Greve of Cedar Falls; and Amanda and Allison Cox of Omaha, NE; five step grandchildren; two great grandchildren; five step great grandchildren; his two sisters, Darlene Blakely of Harlan and Phyllis (Glen) Yeager of Pittsburg, CA; and one brother, Kenneth Nielsen (Evelyn) of Arizona; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 22, 2003, at the Altamont Baptist Church in Harlan, with Pastor Diana Holland officiating. Casket bearers were Amy Urquhart, Kevin Greve, Allison Cox, Doug Greve, Stephanie Greve, Dave Clark, Becca Kent and Amanda Cox. Honorary casket bearers were Max Klindt, LaVerne Kock, Hollis Bledsoe, Darwin Warner, Robert Roid and Lavern Botcher. Burial was held at Cuppy's Grove Cemetery in Harlan, with military rites by Shelby County V.F.W. Post 941 and Harlan American Legion Helmer Reyelt Post No. 150. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

