

Willard E. Reineke, 87

Jan 1

HANCOCK - Willard E. Reineke was born in James Twp., Pottawattamie Co., Nov. 19, 1903. He was the son of Garrett and Bertha Davis Reineke. He was the oldest of three children in the family. At the age of 5, he and his family moved to Hancock. He was baptized in the Hancock Methodist Church. He attended school in Hancock and graduated in 1921. Following graduation he attended Boyles Business College in Omaha, NE. He worked 1 1/2 years for a manufacturing company as secretary. He was called home at age of 21, upon the death of his father, to help with the farming.

He married Lillie Jacobsen Dec. 31, 1927. They were the parents of one son, Roger Dean. After their marriage, he continued farming for a number of years. He built and operated the first Government grain bins in Hancock. He worked for the Avoca State Bank as Manager for their Hancock office until his retirement in 1958. He was secretary and treasurer for the Hancock Independent Telephone Co. until they sold out. He was also secretary and treasurer of Hancock Independent School District, was clerk and treasurer for the town of Hancock. He ran a small dairy in Hancock from 1925 to 1940. Some of his other activities included serving one term for the Farmers Home Administration, Director of Officer of the Avoca Alfalfa Milling Co., served as local chairman for the American Red Cross and various other drives during WW II, he was a member of the Hancock Odd Fellows Lodge. He personally helped three young men get started farming and they became very successful. He also helped two young couples purchase their homes. He played a big part in purchasing the land that was sold to Hancock town for their park and to Pottawattamie Co. for the county park. He and Lillie would have been married 63 years at the end of December. He died at the Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Co. Bluffs, Dec. 19, 1990 at age 87 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Lillie; their son, Roger (Joan) of Hancock; two grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two step-great-grandchildren; one brother, Floyd Reineke of Mesa, AZ.; one sister, Ione Jacobsen of Hancock; one step brother, Clarence Thies (Merna) of Avoca; two step-sisters, Mrs Blaine (Eleanor) Vandeventer of Arnes; and Miss Helen Thies of Boulder, CO.; besides nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 22, 1990 at the United Methodist Church in Hancock with Rev. Douglas Cue, officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill cemetery in Hancock with Robert Reineke, Bob Benson, Clarence Thies, Larry Jacobsen, Lynn Jacobsen and Lon Jacobsen serving as casketbearers. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.