

## Eugene Saunders, 80

*Aug. 21, 1923 - Jan. 27, 2004*

**MANILLA** – Eugene Alden, son of Auslin C. and Mary Catherine (Sowles) Saunders, was born Aug. 21, 1923, at Fort Calhoun, NE. When he was five years old, he moved from Fort Calhoun with his family to a farm northwest of Manilla. He attended rural school and graduated from Manilla High School in 1942. Following his schooling, he started farming and also worked in a bomber plant in Omaha, NE, during the war years.

Nov. 20, 1945, Eugene married Zona Claire Howorth at the Methodist Church in Manilla. Four children were born to this union. Eugene worked for Manilla Theater and Booth Olson Construction before starting to farm in 1947. During the first years of farming he also worked for Rasmussen Lumber, Olson Produce and Farmland Foods. They purchased the farm they had been farming in the 1950's. Eugene was a member of the Methodist Church in Manilla for 67 years. He was also a member of Pork Producers and served as president of the Manilla Community Club. In 1989, he suffered a stroke and was forced to retire and in 1991 he became a resident of the Manilla Manor Nursing Home. He died Jan. 27, 2004, at Manning Regional Healthcare Center, at age 80 years, five months and six days.

Preceding Eugene in death were his parents and five brothers, Robert Saunders at age five days; James Saunders and wife, Flora; Velié Saunders; and twins, Howard Saunders and Harold Saunders and wife, Emma; sister-in-law, Ruth Saunders; and brother-in-law, Kenneth Jorgensen. He is survived by his wife, Zona Saunders of Manilla; three daughters, Charlotte Ann (David) Boeck of Manilla; Nancy Kay (Dennis) Greer of Harlan; and Susan Jan (Bruce) Dolder of Ft. Dodge; one son, Keith Douglas Saunders of Manilla; 11 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; one brother, George Saunders of Topeka, KS; twin sisters, Ruth (Howard) Sabel of Storm Lake and Virginia Jorgensen of Storm Lake; sister-in-law, Rita Saunders of Manning; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 31, 2004, at the Ohde Funeral Home in Manilla, with Rev. John Rosendaal of the United Church of Manilla, officiating. Burial was in the Nishnabotna Cemetery near Manilla. Casket bearers were Brian Dolder, Dave Jorgensen, Ryan Pearson, Dan Jorgensen, Eugene Jorgensen, Tom Sabel and Joe Sabel.