

Elden "Butch" Sleister, 65

Jan. 26, 1939 - March 22, 2004

HARLAN – Elden Robert Sleister, the son of Bernard and Velma Kuhl Sleister, was born Jan. 26, 1939, in Harlan. He was baptized in the Methodist Church in Manilla, where he attended school and grew to adulthood. As a member of the Manilla High School class of 1957, Butch participated in many high school activities. As a scholar-athlete, he received a scholarship to play football at Northern Iowa University. The summer of 1957 proved to be an eventful one because of an automobile accident. He was never able to attend college to play football. He turned to auto racing where he raced stock cars at tracks in western Iowa including Harlan and Denison.

After his marriage to Sande Stender June 26, 1959, in Hot Springs, AR, they returned to the Denison area where he farmed for a short while. He then became an over-the-road truck driver for the next 20 years. He drove for major trucking companies including Sunflower and Zak's Trucking.

In April of 1972, Butch married Judy Spagler. He later went to work at various nursing homes working as a traveling certified nursing assistant as well as working part-time at Tobe's in Defiance. After retiring due to his health, he made his home for a short time in Defiance, and then moved to the Westridge Apartments in Harlan, where he died March 22, 2004, at age 65 years, one month and 27 days. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his children, Anthony Sleister of Olathe, KS; Michael Sleister of Gardner, KS; Carrie Stark of Crofton, NE; and Shane Sleister of Oakdale, NE; 10 grandchildren and two sisters, Belva Jean Crooks of Winter Park, FL and Janice Lauritsen (Richard) of Audubon; and other relatives.

Memorial services were held March 27, 2004, at Pauley Jones Funeral Home with Rev. Keith Pals officiating.