

## Raymond Strong, 96

June 28, 1903 – Feb. 1, 2000

**AVOCA** – Raymond Wesley Strong was born June 28, 1903, in Oakland, son of Charles and Rosa Belle Brightman Strong. He was one of three children born into this union. He grew up in the rural areas of Atlantic, Wiota, Oakland and Hancock and worked on various farms in these areas. In 1924, the Strongs moved to the Lackery/Brightman family farm.

He married Bernice Ruth Jensen at the Christian Church Parsonage in Oakland, in December of 1930. They were the parents of four children, Victorine, Beulah, Virginia and Russell. They raised their children on the family farm. Bernice died Nov. 24, 1958.

He then married Iris Dent Leslie March 26, 1960. They moved to Avoca in 1970. Iris died in December of 1993. Raymond moved to Peace Haven Retirement Home in Walnut shortly after her death and in January of 2000, he moved to the Salem Lutheran Home. He was a member of the United Church of Avoca. He farmed most of his life along with being Rural School Director, Township Assessor, Seed Corn Salesman and he worked at the ASCS office at various times. He was also involved with the Good Guys and the Senior Citizens. He died at Myrtue Memorial Hospital Feb. 1, 2000, at age 96 years, seven months and four days.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Floyd; his sister, Velma; his wives, Bernice and Iris; baby daughter, Virginia Rae; son-in-law, Gus Attanasio; grandson, Billy Wiemann; great grandson, Bryce Swisher; and nephews, Gene Shuster, Bob Shuster, Gerald Strong and Johnnie Jensen. He is survived by his children, Victorine (Bob) Jensen of Avoca; Beulah (Bob) Hellig of Avoca and Russell Strong (Nancy) of Carson and Sharon Attanasio of Shelby; 12 grandchildren; 24 great grandchildren; four great great grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Roma Jensen and Alma Dent; and brother-in-law, Melvin Jensen; a special friend, Claire Walter of Elk Horn and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 5, 2000, at the United Church of Avoca with Mr. Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in Graceland Cemetery, Avoca. Casket bearers were Tom Hellig, Jim Jones, Charles Strong, James Swisher, Bob Jensen, LeRoy Osbahr, Alan Husz and Randy Pauley. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.